



Maine Women's Policy Center

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

MEDIA RELEASE

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Women Leaders to Girls: Make Your Voice Heard

*Twelfth Annual Girls' Day at the State House: Over 100 Girls
Learn About Leadership in Political Process*

(Augusta) – Today, girls were in the majority at the Maine State House. That's because the Maine Women's Policy Center's 12th annual Girls' Day at the State House brought 103 girls from across Maine together with more than 60 volunteers, lobbyists, and legislators for a day of learning, leadership, and exploration.

The event, organized by the Maine Women's Policy Center, sponsored by Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation, George A. Ramlose Foundation, Margaret Chase Smith Library, Verizon, and a generous anonymous sponsor, gave a diverse group of girls the opportunity to learn how they can have an impact in the policymaking process. Held each year to commemorate Women's History Month, Girls' Day at the State House teaches girls about the legislative process and the important role women play in shaping public policy.

Throughout the day, girls debated L.D. 2034, "An Act To Prohibit the Sale of Energy Drinks to Minors," which would have prohibited a person from selling, furnishing, or giving away an energy drink to a minor. Participants worked with real lobbyists and journalists in organizing mock public hearings and mock press conferences focused on the bill. In addition, the girls met with Governor Baldacci and with women elected and appointed leaders, and participated in a "Get To Know Your State House and Legislature" scavenger hunt.

"I was delighted to meet with the girls who traveled from all parts of Maine to our capitol today to learn more about state government and the roles that women play in shaping it," said Senate President Beth Edmonds. "They left Augusta as leaders with a clear vision of how they can get involved and make a difference in their schools, communities, and their state."

“Girls’ Day enables young women to envision themselves as leaders and learn how to voice their opinions,” said Maine Women’s Policy Center Executive Director, Sarah Standiford. “Our hope is that these young women come away with real insights into the political process and a feeling of excitement about participating in it,” she continued. As one of last year’s participants said, “I learned that women have a prominent role in Maine’s government today. I became more interested in someday running for office or working in politics.”

The Maine Women’s Policy Center, founded in 1990, is a private non-profit organization whose purpose is to improve the lives of Maine women and girls through public policy and leadership development.

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