

Business and Professional Women of Tennessee
Day on the Hill 2013

This year's DOH was a first in many aspects. The day started with a breakfast hosted by BPW. While we have co-hosted breakfast with the Tennessee Women Political Caucus (TWPC) in the past, this was the first time we hosted one by ourselves. Thanks to the law office of Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP for the space and thanks to Susan Jakoblew for taking care of breakfast.

At breakfast we went over the talking points for each bill. Participants were given packets for their legislators. The breakfast was attended by BPW, TWPC, and TWC (Tennessee Women's Collaborative) members. While the number of participants was less than anticipated, the breakfast was fun and very informative.

Another surprising first was the joint session that occurred during the breakfast with speaker Beth Harwell by representatives from BPW, TWPC and the Tennessee Economic Council on Women. Each organization had separate appointments. We decided that rather than seeing her separately at our individual appointment time, we should all go in together. That for me was a highlight. It showcased women together for women.

Another first was being recognized by Rep. Elderidge of Jackson at one of the committee meetings. The day included a great visit with Rep. Shaw and Senator Burks. We also made a new friend in Rep. Jernigan, the sponsor of the unemployment insurance bill. The bill was defeated in subcommittee with a tie vote; however we are hoping he will present it again in the second half of this session next year.

Our day ended with a photo session with Governor Bill Haslam and an informative luncheon on school vouchers by the Women Collaborative. Everyone that attended had a fulfilling day: meeting the governor, the speaker and other legislators; networking with women from other organizations; and advocating for issues of importance while increasing BPW visibility at the capitol. See DOH photos at <https://www.facebook.com/events/158631750959758/>

The major issues that we advocated for/against are:

[SB0580/ HB0253 Establish self-employment assistance in lieu of unemployment compensation](#)

Unemployment Compensation - As introduced, implements a self-employment assistance program for persons who are eligible for regular unemployment compensation. - Amends TCA Title 50, Chapter 7.

[SB446 / HB129 Expands offense of solicitation of a minor.](#)

Criminal Offenses - As introduced, expands the offense of solicitation of a minor to include solicitations by adults that if completed, would constitute trafficking for commercial sex acts, patronizing prostitution, promoting prostitution or aggravated sexual exploitation of a minor. - Amends TCA Title 39 and Title 40.

[SB1073 / HB622 Plan to provide services to victims of human trafficking.](#)

Human Services, Dept. of - As introduced, requires the commissioner shall establish a plan for the delivery of services to victims of human trafficking including coordination of services and information concerning rehabilitative services; changes reference to the judiciary committee of the house of representatives to the criminal justice and civil justice committees. - Amends TCA Title 37; Title 39; Title 40 and Section 71-1-135.

[SB114 / HB1198 No preference in hiring based on race, gender or ethnicity by state government](#)

State Employees - As introduced, prohibits granting a preference based on race, gender or ethnicity when hiring to fill a position in state government. - Amends TCA Title 4 and Title 8.

-Zulfat Suara- Chair