

# SWE Public Policy: Federal Budget and Appropriations 101

## Presenters:

- Asha Balakrishnan, Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI)
- Della Cronin, Bose Washington Affairs Group

# Introduction: Webinar Panelists



Della Cronin, Principal, Bose  
Public Affairs Group



Asha Balakrishnan, Research  
Staff Member, Science and  
Technology Policy Institute  
(STPI)



# SWE's Advocacy Agenda



## SWE Advocacy Agenda

SWE Public Policy initiatives support the Society's mission by engaging our members in policy issues that impact the advancement of women in engineering. Our goals are to provide SWE members with timely information and tools to enhance their understanding of the issues and encourage volunteer participation at the federal level. We also aim to educate other professional societies and policy makers on how to apply Title IX to STEM fields.



# SWE Advocacy Agenda

## What does that mean? SWE concentrates on four areas related to public policy:

1. Strengthening America's schools.
  - a. Ensuring federal investments support educational opportunity for all students, with a particular emphasis on females, socioeconomically challenged populations and populations underrepresented in engineering and STEM fields
  - b. Ensuring that STEM education is supported by federal lawmakers and agencies in a manner that reflects the national priority placed on growing the STEM workforce
  
2. Ensuring Title IX is applied to STEM fields and women in STEM fairly and effectively.
  - a. Making sure female students are safe at K-12 schools and on college and university campuses
  - b. Making sure female faculty and administrators are in safe and supported workplaces
  - c. Making sure that Title IX is being applied appropriately at federal agencies and that female researchers are being treated fairly as they compete for federal research dollars



# SWE Advocacy Agenda

## What does that mean? SWE concentrates on four areas related to public policy (cont'd):

3. Strengthening the STEM workforce by ensuring equal opportunity for women in STEM education and careers.
  - a. Supporting workplace policies that support success for female STEM professionals
  - b. Asking for the appropriate enforcement of existing laws related to discrimination on the basis of sex in employment, pay and education
  
4. Supporting policies that allow women to be successful on their own terms
  - a. Supporting workplace and employment policies that nurture the needs of female engineers and STEM professionals
  - b. Encouraging employers to provide comprehensive health and wellness programs that foster professional success for female engineers and professionals



# SWE Advocacy Agenda

## How Does SWE Implement its Agenda?

Regularly talking to and meeting with lawmakers to discuss issues of interest

- Member of the STEM Education Coalition
- Member of the National Council on Women and Girls in Education
- Friend to many other allied organizations

Writing letters to lawmakers and signing on to letters with allies

Hosting briefings on topics important to SWE and SWE members

Hosting webinars on timely topics important to SWE member

Hosting Capitol Hill Day in the spring of each year



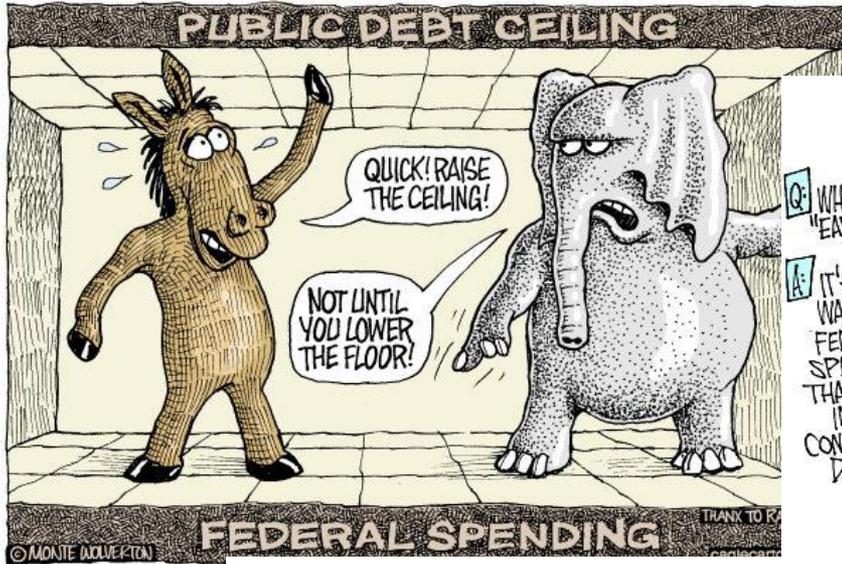
# SWE Capitol Hill Days 2019

## 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

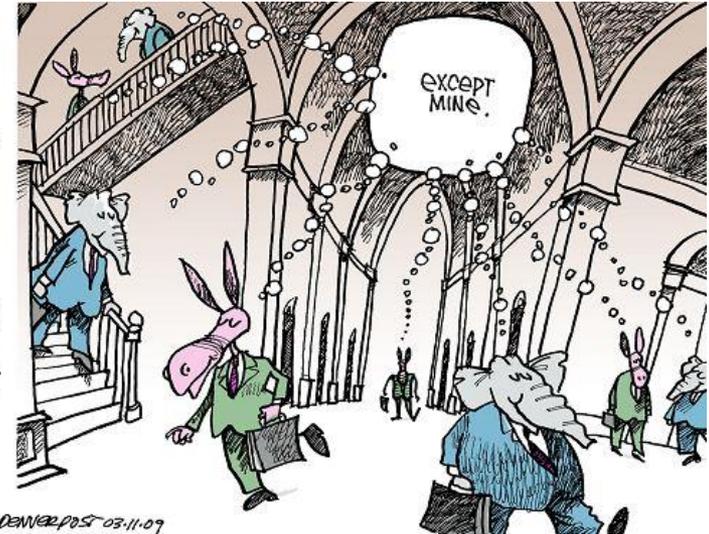
- House: 235 Democrats, 198 Republicans, 1 Undecided seat (NC), 1 vacant seat
- Senate: 47 Democrats, 53 Republicans
- Average age: 58.5 years old
- 24% female (102 House, 25 Senate)
- 21% minorities
- Most diverse Congress ever



# SWE Capitol Hill Days 2019



Q: WHAT IS AN "EARMARK"?  
A: IT'S THAT WASTEFUL FEDERAL SPENDING THAT OCCURS IN EVERY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



# SWE Capitol Hill Days 2019

## What will SWE members talk about this year?

- These are YOUR representatives and YOUR meetings
- Think of a story (or handful of stories) that convey your concerns about women in engineering in your community
  - Workforce supply
  - Returnships
  - Successful STEM education programs
  - Investments that might help schools serving socioeconomically challenged populations
  - Challenges for working women in your community
  - National labs
  - Department of Defense spending



# SWE Capitol Hill Days 2019

## What will SWE members talk about this year? Legislation:

- ***Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act***, which recognizes the contributions of Katherine Johnson, Dr. Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, and all of the women who contributed to the success of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race.
- ***Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act (HR 36)***, which addresses sexual harassment in STEM fields by supporting sexual harassment research and efforts to prevent and respond to sexual harassment.
- Policies and programs that support success for women engineers and their families, like those proposed by the ***Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (HR 1439/S. 786)*** and the ***Paycheck Fairness Act (HR 7)***.
- A revised ***Higher Education Act*** that nurtures the interest of females and underrepresented populations in the STEM fields.
- ***The STEM Research and Education Effectiveness Transparency Act (HR 627)*** which requires federal science agencies to collect and report annually on data for all research grant applications and awards; such data and transparency facilitates the award of such grants in a manner that reflects the value of diversity in investigators.



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## What will SWE members talk about this year? Funding

- That Congress invest adequately in the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program, authorized in Title IV, Part A of ESSA. The program, which was funded at \$1.17 billion in FY 2019, supports STEM programs in K-12 schools that are crucial to exposing young women to disciplines that will offer them a foundation in STEM.
- That Congress invest adequately in Title II of ESSA, which states use to invest in teacher professional development and other initiatives and was funded at \$2 billion in FY 2019.
- That Congress invest adequately in the programs that support the many needs of today's K-12 students, including afterschool programs, early childhood education and research on the teaching and learning of STEM subjects.
- That Congress adequately invest in the research agencies that are important to scientific discovery and innovation.



# SWE Capitol Hill Days 2019

## What will we give you?

- A day-before update on policy and climate
- Your meeting schedule
- Talking points to support your conversations
- A letter outlining SWE's priorities and request
- Data on STEM, including in your state
- Maps



# Questions?





**Society of Women Engineers**  
Aspire / Advance / Achieve

