



Maine Women's Lobby

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Maine Women's Lobby and the Maine Women's Policy Center Welcome New Leadership

Eliza Townsend announced as new Executive Director

Augusta – Today the Maine Women's Lobby and Maine Women's Policy Center welcomed Eliza Townsend as the new Executive Director of the sister organizations. Eliza brings decades of public policy leadership experience to her new position. In addition to four terms in the Maine House of Representatives, Eliza served as Executive Director of the Maine League of Conservation Voters & Maine Conservation Voters Education Fund, as well as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Conservation.

Throughout her legislative tenure and non-profit sector experience, Eliza has been a strong and effective advocate on a wide range of issues affecting women. She brings extensive professional experience to the organizations, along with a strong track record of working collaboratively with a wide range of people.

Said Peaches Bass, Board Chair of the Maine Women's Lobby and the Maine Women's Policy Center, "We are elated to welcome Eliza as our new Executive Director. Eliza's experience, qualifications, and proven track record of leadership success represent all that we were searching for and more. The board of directors is thrilled that Eliza's passion, commitment, and vision will be a part of our work increasing opportunities for Maine women and girls."

Eliza's professional contributions have been recognized by the Friends of the Fund for a Healthy Maine, the Maine Department of Human Services (DHS) and DHS Bureau of Adult Services, the Start ME Right Coalition, the Maine Community Action Association, the Family Planning Association of Maine, the Maine Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, the Senior Legislative Advocacy Coalition, the Baxter Compensation Authority, the Maine State Library and Maine Library Association, Maine Audubon Society, and the Maine Grange.

Said Eliza about her start at the Maine Women's Lobby and the Maine Women's Policy Center, "Infusing the voice of Maine women into the political process, and ensuring that public policy reflects the needs,

realities and aspirations of women and girls is a mission close to my heart. As a legislator, non-profit community colleague, and Maine Women's Lobby member, I have witnessed the strong history of these organizations and have always been impressed with their work. I am delighted to be part of it as we move into the future."

In addition to her professional achievements, Eliza has served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Casco Bay, and volunteered with the Cumberland County Budget Advisory Committee, and as a grant writer for the Portland Skatepark Committee. Eliza is a graduate of McGill University, in Montreal, Quebec and holds a Master of Fine Arts in Drama from Carnegie-Mellon University. She has two sons and lives in Portland.

To learn more about Eliza Townsend, visit www.mainewomen.org/townsend.

Maine Women's Lobby is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, membership organization working since 1978 to increase opportunities for women and girls through advocacy and legislative action.

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