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Women and Girls Foundation's GirlGov participants in Harrisburg today, will rally for passage of Demi Brae Bill

GirlGov (www.girlgov.org), a project created by the Women and Girls Foundation's Allegheny County Change Agents last year, will head to Harrisburg once again on Tuesday, October 5th, with a second round of participants. 31 young women between the ages of 13-17 will participate in this one-day legislative shadowing program for girls in grades 8-12 living in Allegheny County. Last March, 30 young women from Allegheny County previously participated in the program on March 8th, 2010, on International Women's Day.

GirlGov aims to encourage girls from Allegheny County to become more informed, engaged, and interested in pursuing politics as a future career path. Participants in the program will shadow a Pennsylvania State House Representative for an entire day at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg, PA. The Women and Girls Foundation will sponsor the day-long trip to Harrisburg for all participants.

While in Harrisburg today, the 31 young women from GirlGov will participate in a rally in the Main Rotunda of the State Capitol Building at 4 p.m., calling for the passage of HB2026 in support of passing teen dating violence legislation in Pennsylvania, in honor of Demi Brae Cuccia. Rally speakers include Heather Arnet, WGF Chief Executive Officer and Representatives Chelsa Wagner and Dan Frankel. Additional speakers include Dr. Gary A. Cuccia, Demi Brae Cuccia's father, Rep. Scott Conklin, Jodi Cuccia, Demi Brae Cuccia's mother, Rep. Joseph Markosek, Attorney Grace Deluliis, Rep. Barbara Mellvaine Smith, representatives from the offices of Sen. White and Sen. Pippy, County Commissioner Joseph Deluiis, and representatives from the Liz Claiborne "Love is Not Abuse" campaign, among others.

EVENT: GirlGov/"Push for Demi's Law" Rally

DATE: Tuesday, October 5th, 2010

TIME: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Main Rotunda, State Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA

Through their participation in GirlGov, girls will learn about effective government practices and the political process firsthand. This initiative will provide an opportunity for girls to explore a career in government service and will help to influence girl's future professional decisions and career aspirations. Additionally, in launching GirlGov, the Women and Girls Foundation seeks to make participating legislators more aware of issues effecting women and girls in Southwest Pennsylvania.

GirlGov is an initiative of the Allegheny County Change Agents. Regional Change Agents is a project of the Women and Girls Foundation. For more information about the Women and Girls Foundation, Regional Change Agents or GirlGov, please visit our website at www.wgfp.org. To interview a GirlGov participant or WGF representative, please contact Elizabeth Waickman at 412-258-2567 or Elizabeth@wgfp.org