

AAUW NEWS OF NOTE

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Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.
Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

HINGHAM AREA BRANCH FEBRUARY 2010

CALENDAR

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| February 2, Tuesday | Book Group, 7:00 PM
<u>The Help</u> by Kathryn Stockett
Home of Jane Street |
| February 3, Wednesday | Yarn Group, 7:00 PM
Home of Pat Laidler |
| February 4, Thursday | DeClutter Bugs, 4:30 PM
Panera Bread, Derby Shoppes, Hingham |
| February 9, Tuesday | Branch Meeting, 7:00 PM
"Women Artists or Artists Who Are Women"
Hingham Public Library, 66 Leavitt St, Hingham |
| February 11, Thursday | Adventures in Dining, 6:30 PM
Aoyama, 14 Snow Rd, Marshfield
(Webster Square next to Shaw's Market) |
| February 18, Thursday | Girl's Game Night, 7:00 PM
Home of Chrisanne Gregoire |
| February 25, Thursday | Writers' Group, 7:30 PM
Brewed Awakening, Hingham |

BRANCH MEETING

Women artists, or artists who are women? Learn about some women who were such successful artists that they were able to support their husbands, family, servants, and households - and all of this in the 17th Century. Who were these women and why have they been neglected by history despite being well known in their own time? In this presentation Deanne Noiseaux will show images of these artists and discuss their art. Deanne holds a Master's Degree from the Massachusetts College of Art and has taught for 25 years. Research into education for women led to a refined look at why these women have been so overlooked by historians.

The meeting will be on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00 PM in the Whiton Room of the Hingham Public Library, 66 Leavitt Street, Hingham (Route 228). Come, learn, enjoy!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you were one of the members who came to the January meeting. It was so nice to visit, share a meal and meet author Amy McKinnon. Thanks to Kay Campbell and Susan Mahan for making it such a wonderful

evening. Our meeting in February is going to be presented by Deanne Noiseaux who will be talking about women artists. She is a recently retired Norwell teacher and Scituate artist. Her work was recently shown at the Thomas Crane Library in Quincy. We are grateful to have such talented women in the Hingham Area Branch. This is the second speaker this year that we have had from our own group.

I will be heading south for the month of February, if you need information I will be available by e-mail at greenharbor11@verizon.net or on my cell phone at 781.267.1098. I will see you at the March meeting.

Sheila Doherty, President

DONATIONS FOR HAITI

AAUW and AAUW-MA have partnered with CARE (www.care.org) in this cause. Links are posted on our state website (AAUW-MA.org) if you are interested in participating.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Long time member Pat Granahan underwent right knee replacement on December 22nd. She hopes you all had great holidays, but she was seeing red, orange, etc lights at the South Shore Hospital – not all associated with Christmas. Released from the hospital, she rehabbed at Renaissance at Linden Ponds and is now at home in Hingham. We expect great organic gardening in her yard next summer!

PAMELA J. LINCOLN AWARD

I am happy to report that our "Bring One, Buy Two" book sale at the Pot Luck Supper brought in \$46.00. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause.

All applications for the above Award must be submitted by March 1. So if you know someone deserving of our consideration, please let me know and I will get the necessary forms to you. I can be reached at 781-925-3310 or johnjackkelly@yahoo.com.

Beatrice Kelly.

WRITERS' GROUP

The next meeting of the Writers' Group will be held on Thursday February 25 at 7.30 PM at the Brewed Awakening in Hingham.

Susan Mahan's poem *Curly Headed Irish Lassie* has been published in the volume *Psychological Poems: A Journal of Outsider Poetry*.

Beatrice Kelly's essay *New Year's Viewing Revolt* was published in the January 7, 2010 edition of *The Hull Times*

BOOK GROUP

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:00 PM at Jane Street's home. We will be discussing the book *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to me at lynnphoward82@comcast.net

Lynn Howard

Synopsis of *The Help*:

Be prepared to meet three unforgettable women:

Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone.

Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken.

Minnie, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town...

Here's a preview of the books for the future AAUW-Hingham Area Book Club meetings:

March 2nd-*Those Who Save Us* by Jenna Blum, at Pat Laidler's house

April 6th-*Half Broke Horses* by Jeanette Walls, at Kay Campbell's house

May 2nd-*Sarah's Long Walk* by Paul Kendrick, tour and tea in Beacon Hill

YARN CLUB

The next meeting of the Yarn Club will be on Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at Pat Laidler's home. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring along a project you're working on or bring some yarn and learn how to knit a felted purse or crochet an afghan. RSVP to Pat Laidler at laidlers@comcast.net. Lynn Howard

ADVENTURES IN DINING

Our next dining out is planned for February 11th at 6:30 at Aoyama Japanese Steakhouse in Marshfield.

Here is the address and website link:

14 Snow Road (Webster Square Shopping Center) Marshfield

<http://aoyomarestaurant.net>

Please RSVP if you plan to attend so I can make a reservation. Pat Laidler

LAF - Share Your Work Experiences

Between January 25 and February 13, AAUW will participate in a blog radio series and blog carnival on work-life balance issues. You are encouraged to [learn more about the initiative](#) so that you can participate and share your experiences and views. The goal is to flood public spaces with blog posts, opinions, and real, personal stories about what it's like to work in America today.

Support Title IX Legislation!

In January, Congress is likely to vote on the [High School Sports Information Collection Act](#) (S. 471) and the [High School Athletics Accountability Act](#) (H.R. 2882). These bills would require high schools to report basic data on the number of female and male students participating in their athletics programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Schools already collect the data; the bills merely require schools to make the information publicly available.

Case Support

LAF is actively reviewing new case support applications and is reviewing five new cases in early February with the LAF committee. If you would like to make a case recommendation, please contact laf@aauw.org. Recommendation forms are accepted on a rolling basis.

Online

For the latest LAF news, visit the [AAUW website](#) and [AAUW Dialog](#). Please consider making a [tax-deductible donation to LAF](#) to help balance the scales of justice for women. Hollie

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW Releases First-Year Report on Obama and Congressional Voting Record: AAUW announced the release of a comprehensive analysis of President Barack Obama's first year in office and the AAUW Action Fund scorecard of congressional votes. These materials demonstrate that real progress is being made on the issues that matter most to women and their families.

The Obama Administration's First Year: A Progress Report on AAUW Priority Issues, available at www.aauw.org, and the Congressional Voting Record for the first session of the 111th Congress, available at www.aauwaction.org, outline the AAUW priority issues that became law in 2009.

US Response to Haiti Earthquake :The White House has created a website of informational tools and resources related to the current situation in Haiti, following the catastrophic earthquake this week. For up to date information everyone is encouraged to visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/HaitiEarthquake>.

Along with relief efforts, a top priority for the administration is to account for the thousands of American citizens who are currently in Haiti. The White House encourages families of US citizens living in Haiti trying to find the status of their loved ones to contact the State Department at 1-888-407-4747.

ACTION: Cash donations are considered the most efficient and effective way to help the relief effort right now. You can immediately donate to the Red Cross to assist the relief effort. Contribute online to the Red Cross, or donate \$10 to be charged to your cell phone bill by texting "HAITI" to "90999." Additional resources may be found through Center for International Disaster Information, or through USAID's interactive website, which has a list of NGOs and instructions on how to help: <http://www.usaid.gov>.

Judge Rules "Justifiable Homicide" Defense Possible in Roeder Trial : Kansas Judge Warren Wilbert ruled for a second time that attorneys for Scott Roeder, the man who confessed to the murder of Dr. George Tiller in May 2009, may argue a "justifiable homicide" defense under a plea of voluntary manslaughter. Under Kansas law, voluntary manslaughter is defined as "an unreasonable but honest belief that circumstances existed that justified deadly force." On both sides of the abortion debate, many believe the final decision may influence others to kill abortion providers because of the possibility of a lower sentence for voluntary manslaughter. According to the Associated Press, Don Spitz, a supporter of Scott Roeder and website manager for the Army of God said that this decision "may increase the number of people who may be willing to take that risk." Feminist Majority Foundation Executive Vice President Katherine Spiller agreed saying, "Let there be no mistake, the rulings of Kansas Judge Warren Wilbert are being seen by extremists as a green light for those who would murder abortion providers."

AAUW supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services. This position stems from AAUW's 2009-2011 Public Policy Program, which advocates, "choice in the determination of one's reproductive life ... increased access to health care and family planning services including expansion of patients' rights."

Same-Sex Marriage Trial Begins in California: a San Francisco federal court began hearing arguments on whether or not the 2008 California ballot initiative against same-sex marriage is constitutional. Two couples have asked Chief US District Judge Vaughn R. Walker to rule that the ballot initiative, known commonly as "Prop 8," violates their constitutional rights to marry as marriage is a right embedded in the US Constitution. No matter the verdict, lawyers on either side are expected to appeal the decision to the US Supreme Court.

AAUW's member-adopted 2009-11 Public Policy Program affirms our commitment to "vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights" as well as "freedom in definition of family and guarantee of civil rights in all family structures." AAUW believes that discrimination against any class of persons has no place in our country, and that human and civil rights should not be subject to popularity contests.

Spike in Women Ambassadors Dubbed "Hillary Effect": The Washington Post published an article (not surprisingly, in the Arts and Style section) on "the Hillary effect," noting the 25 female ambassadors in Washington as the highest number of women in history representing their countries in the United States. While women remain a clear minority of the 182 total ambassadors in Washington, their numbers have quintupled since the late 1990s.

Many attribute the rise in women ambassadors to the US as a direct result of increases in high-ranking women, like Secretaries of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Condoleeza Rice and Madeline Albright, to US diplomat positions.

First Lady Addresses Work-Life Balance at Department of Labor: First Lady Michelle Obama addressed Department of Labor staff in Washington, D.C. and spoke of the need for an increase in work-life balance policies in the U.S. and in the federal government. She specifically mentioned the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 2460/S. 1152) and noted the support that President Obama and Secretary Hilda Solis have made public for the bill. "It's time we viewed family-friendly policies as not just niceties for women but as necessities for every single working American - men and women," the First Lady noted. "Things like paid family leave and sick days and affordable childcare should be the norm, not the exception."

ACTION: AAUW believes that creating work environments that help employees balance the responsibilities of work and family is good public policy - good for workers, good for families, and good for business. Urge your representative to support the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 2460/S. 1152), which would provide full-time employees with seven paid sick days a year to be used for their own medical needs or to tend to the medical needs of a family member. Then, take another minute to urge your senators to support the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act (S. 354). This important legislation will provide federal workers up to four weeks of paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child, and will be a significant step towards paid parental leave for all Americans. For more information, read our position paper on work-life balance.

AAUW Releases First-Year Report on Obama, Highlights Key Accomplishments

2009 Saw the Passage of Critical Legislation

WASHINGTON - AAUW announced the release of a comprehensive analysis of President Barack Obama's first year in office and the AAUW Action Fund scorecard of congressional votes. These materials demonstrate that real progress is being made on the issues that matter most to women and their families.

The Obama Administration's First Year: A Progress Report on AAUW Priority Issues, available at www.aauw.org, and the Congressional Voting Record for the first session of the 111th Congress, available at www.aauwaction.org, outline the AAUW priority issues that became law in 2009.

Last year, AAUW was instrumental in the passage of several pieces of legislation, including the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provides funding for job training, a \$500 Pell grant increase, and an unemployment insurance increase.

"Overall, AAUW is pleased to report that Washington has heard the concerns of American women and taken the right steps toward addressing some of our nation's most serious problems with respect to economic security, work-life balance, education, and civil rights," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "However, much work remains to be done as we push for sustainable change and equity for women and girls."

"Our assessments of both the administration and Congress will serve as valuable tools to help inform the political debate and will assist voters as they participate in 2010 primary elections," said Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "As a nonpartisan organization with members in every Congressional district, our main goals with these publications are to highlight significant achievements of the past year and to hold our elected and appointed officials accountable."

The Congressional Voting Record and the Obama Administration's First Year

A Progress Report on AAUW Priority Issues include the following highlights: The Congressional Voting Record provides AAUW members and the public with critical information on how their members of Congress voted on issues affecting women and girls in 2009. New this year, AAUW also scores legislators on their co-sponsorship of key legislation. When a member co-sponsors a bill, it demonstrates initiative on and commitment to the issue and gives the bill momentum. Our 2009 successes include House passage of the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, and more than 100 House co-sponsors of the Healthy Families Act, which would provide employees seven paid sick-leave days per year. Disappointments include the House Stupak vote, Senate efforts to advance school vouchers, and Senate failure to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

The Obama Administration's First Year: A Progress Report on AAUW Priority Issues delves into issues of pay equity, job security, reproductive rights, education, and work-life balance. It offers a close look at the administration's progress and identifies areas in which more work can be done. The administration's first-year successes include the launch of Educate to Innovate, a campaign to improve math and science education; the confirmation of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina and third woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court; and the creation of the White House Council on Women and Girls, which keeps issues related to gender equity at the forefront of the executive branch. AAUW was disappointed with the Obama administration's lack of public support for the Paycheck Fairness Act and silence over the Stupak amendment to the health care reform bill, as well as their support for continued federal funding for private school vouchers. AAUW is further concerned with the administration's surprisingly slow pace on judicial and executive branch nominations; the Senate's advice and consent role notwithstanding, the administration must take a stronger stand with respect to filling these vital positions soon.

Nobel Laureates Call For Work-Life Balance Benefits :Two of this year's Nobel laureates, Elizabeth Blackburn and AAUW member Carol Greider, criticized the science career structure, stating that it functions well for men but not women. According to the Associated Press, the prizewinners added that as many women as men start out in science fields but are unable to advance due to the lack of flexibility of the career structure. The two called for flexible approaches to part time research and career breaks, as well as measures that would allow more women to join committees and be part of science's decision-making processes.

AAUW strongly supports science, technology, engineering, and math education for girls and other underrepresented populations. Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, AAUW is implementing the National Girls Collaborative Project, a program designed to reach girl-serving STEM organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico. These efforts help to increase America's competitiveness by reducing gender barriers that deter women from pursuing academic and career goals in these fields.

ACTION: AAUW also works to advance policies that promote work-life balance, critical in breaking through educational and economic barriers for women. Urge your members of Congress to support the Healthy Families Act (H.R. 2460/S. 1152), the Pandemic Protection for Workers, Families, and Businesses Act (H.R. 4092/S. 2790), and the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act (H.R. 626/S. 354) to help American workers meet the demands of families and the obligations of work. For more information, read our issues page and position paper on work-life balance.

Gender Matters in Hiring Practices at Institutions of Higher Learning: a study released by the Cornell Higher Education Research Institute concluded that when it comes to hiring female faculty members, having a woman in the top job or the number two slot makes a difference. According to Inside Higher Ed, the study also found that having a critical mass of women, defined as women holding either five slots or 25 percent of the board of trustees also makes a difference in terms of the number of female faculty hired. Additionally, the extent of the impact of women in these leadership positions is greater at smaller institutions. This new study further develops the results of a study released by Cornell in January which found that women have made slow but steady progress in their representation on college boards, jumping from 20 percent to 31 percent between 1981 and 2007.

Number of Women on Corporate Board of Directors Remains Stagnant: A recent report from Catalyst showed that men outnumber women on boards of directors of Fortune 500 companies by a ratio of 6 to 1,

Reuters reported. The 15.2 percent ratio for 2009 remains unchanged from the previous year. In addition, the data revealed that women comprised a mere 6.3 percent of the top corporate earners in 2009. Underrepresentation in top decision-making positions continues, despite women now representing 50 percent of the U.S. workforce. The stagnant female representation in board positions also shows a lack of opportunity for advancement, outlining the glass ceiling for women within Fortune 500 companies.

CEDAW Turns 30: the 30th anniversary of the United Nations adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people, and we affirm our commitment to CEDAW. Check out AAUW's International Corner to find out what AAUW is doing to help women and girls break through barriers on an international level.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATES

Pay Equity Mandatory in New Mexico: New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (D) signed an executive order Jan. 5 requiring state agencies to annually report and remedy any gender pay gaps among their workers, Women's eNews reported. The order also requires vendors and contractors of 10 or more employees to do the same beginning July 1, 2010. The move was a recommendation from a task force established last year, the Task Force on Fair and Equal Pay, to examine gender pay inequity and job segregation with state workers.

ACTION: In these tough economic times, an unprecedented number of women are now the family breadwinners - making fair pay even more critical, not simply to family economic security but also to the nation's economic recovery. The Paycheck Fairness Act can help to create a climate where wage discrimination is not tolerated, and give the federal government the enforcement tools it needs to make real progress on pay equity. As we approach the one-year anniversary of the enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, urge your senators to take the next critical step in the fight for pay equity by supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 182).

DOJ Nominee Dawn Johnsen at Turning Point : The Washington Post reported that, Senator Arlen Specter (D-PA) has declared his support of Dawn Johnsen's Justice Department re-nomination. Senator Specter's support could be the final step in breaking through a legislative barrier that has lasted nearly a year since the President first nominated Johnsen for assistant attorney general for the Office of Legal Counsel.

Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee, including Senators Sessions (AL), Hatch (UT), Grassley (IA), Kyl (AZ), Graham (SC), Cornyn (TX) and Coburn (OK), signed a letter requesting committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) hold new hearings on Johnsen's nomination. AAUW will continue to monitor the judicial nominations process and advocate for nominees who are committed to the protection of fundamental civil rights and liberties for which our members have fought for over a century. For more information, see AAUW's position paper on federal judicial nominations.

Healthcare Legislation Timeline : According to CQ, Democratic House and Senate leaders and President Obama officials continued talks with the hopes of reaching a compromise between the two chamber's health care reform bills. Democrats hoped to have the majority of the compromise bill settled so it could be submitted to the Congressional Budget Office to score, or estimate its costs and benefits. Remaining issues that don't affect the budget, like abortion language, can then be tackled. Democrats are under pressure to reach compromise on several fronts, not the least of which is the scheduling of President Obama's State of the Union address, which will likely take place in early February. *The tight Senate race in Massachusetts and the desire to move on and focus on jobs and the economy are other factors affecting the timing of the deal.*

ACTION: One of the key differences between the two bills lies in the area of reproductive health care coverage. While the Senate defeated the Nelson amendment, its version of the House-passed Stupak amendment, the Senate bill requires women to purchase what amounts to a rider policy to cover abortion services. In addition, as the two bills are merged into one, language similar to the Stupak amendment could still be included in the final version of the health care reform bill. Contact your members of Congress now to remind them that health care reform should not come at the cost of women's reproductive health. In addition, while the Senate's health care reform bill makes some steps towards ending the discriminatory practice of gender rating, it fails to provide this protection to businesses with more than 100 workers. As a result, women working for large employers with majority female workforces, like schools, child care providers, health care facilities, and others will continue to

face this discriminatory pricing. As the two bills are merged into one, contact your members of Congress now to urge them to end this discriminatory practice for all women, regardless of the size of their workplace.

Congress Passes Spending Bills; House Adjourns : According to The Hill, the Senate passed (57-35) a \$1.1 trillion conference report on a package of six spending bills covering a variety of programs and allocating nearly \$447 billion in discretionary spending for the 2010 fiscal year. As reported by CQ Budget Tracker, the omnibus spending package (H.R. 3288) includes all but one of the remaining spending bills, including Commerce-Justice-Science (H.R. 2847), Financial Services (H.R. 3170), Labor-HHS-Education (H.R. 3293), Military Construction-VA (H.R. 3082), State-Foreign Operations (H.R. 3081) and Transportation-HUD (H.R. 3288). The House passed H.R. 3288 last week.

The House passed (395-34) the last of the remaining appropriations bills, a \$636 billion defense spending bill (H.R. 3326). According to the Washington Post, the bill will also extend unemployment insurance benefits and health care until March to those who have lost their jobs during the recession. Also included in the bill was an amendment added by Senator Al Franken (D-MN) that would allow rape victims employed by defense contractors to have their day in court, TPM reported. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill.

The House also passed (217-214) the Jobs for Main Street Act (H.R. 2847), which, according to NPR, includes approximately \$50 billion for new construction and infrastructure projects and another roughly \$50 billion for cash-strapped states.

Following the passage of H.R. 2847, the House adjourned. They are set to reconvene on January 12, but there is a possibility that members will be called back before then if it's deemed necessary. The Senate remains in session, focusing on their health care bill and the defense spending bill.

Financial Reform Bill Has Implications for Colleges: the House passed (223-202) the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 4173), which tightens and enforces regulations within the finance industry. The legislation contains various reforms addressing a variety of issues, including significant implications for private student loans that curb predatory lending. According to Inside Higher Ed, under the new legislation, all student loans would fall under the authority of the new Consumer Financial Protection Agency. Another provision introduced by Rep. Polis (D-CO), requires lenders to verify with the potential recipient's college that the student is eligible for the loan.

AAUW Meets with Education and Justice Department Officials: AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Department staff met with officials at the Department of Education to discuss AAUW's recommendations for reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, formerly known as No Child Left Behind. AAUW's recommendations include strengthening STEM education, requiring data collection on high schools sports, creating environments free of bullying and harassment, and increasing access to and funding for early childhood education, among others. Also this week, AAUW staff met with Department of Justice officials to discuss education civil rights enforcement.

Changes on the Hill: Shadegg retiring, Tight Race in Massachusetts Special Election

Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ) announced that he will not seek reelection in 2010. Currently in his eighth term in the House, Shadegg serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Select Energy Independent and Global Warming Committee. He recently received a zero percent score in the AAUW Action Fund's newly-released Congressional Voting Record for the 111th Congress, First Session.

A special election will take place on Tuesday, January 19th in Massachusetts to fill the Senate seat held by the late Senator Edward Kennedy (D). Republican state Senator Scott Brown has been gaining ground lately on state Attorney General Martha Coakley, the Democratic Party candidate, CBS News reported. The election has gained national interest, not only because of the seat's predecessor, but also because of the critical 60th vote it represents for the Democrats. Brown is openly opposed to the health care reform bills pending in Congress. Senator Paul Kirk (D), who currently holds the seat, was appointed as an interim senator by the Democratic governor and has vowed to support the passage of the health care package. According to the Washington Post, the Democratic secretary of state in Massachusetts has said that the certification of the election could take until February.

North Dakota Governor John Hoeven (R) announced that he will run for the Senate seat being vacated by the retiring Senator Byron Dorgan (D). Currently in his third term, Hoeven is the longest serving Governor in the country and won at least 70 percent of the vote in his last two elections, the New York Times reported.