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Karen Spilka Talking Points

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Wow, what an **AMAZING event**!

**Thank you so much** for this honor – I am **humbled and honored** to be in the company of **so many amazing women**, who have **all made a difference in our Commonwealth**

This all seems **a bit overwhelming**, because I can tell you that **when I wake up every morning**, I DON’T say to myself, “**How can I make history today?**”

**Surprising**, I know.

What I **DO** say when I wake up every morning is, “**How can I help people today?**”

I **started my career as a social worker**, and even though I **am now a legislator**, I believe the **REASON for my work is the same**: to **help people**

And in the course of helping people, I have been **privileged** to **learn a little something about LEADERSHIP**

**Leadership** begins when you realize that **all of our fates are intertwined**
• -- That we rise together and fall together

• And that, when it comes down to it, leadership is most effective when it comes from a place of understanding, compassion and humility

• For yourself and others

• So -- my number one piece of advice to any woman out there who hopes to make history someday

• Is to LISTEN CAREFULLY to the experiences, needs and concerns of others

• But also TRUST YOUR GUT and FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS

• Be strong, but be kind

• Be smart, and never let anyone question your ability to make a positive contribution to your community

• As I continue with my work in the legislature and on the Senate Ways & Means committee, I LOOK FORWARD to CELEBRATING MORE WOMEN in the Commonwealth who are living their values, following their hearts, working hard, and MAKING HISTORY!

• Thank you.