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**PERMANENT COMMISSION ON
THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

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**Written Testimony of
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Before the
Judiciary Committee
Monday, March 10, 2008**

In Support of: HB 5836, AAC Staffing at Domestic Violence Shelters

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women in support of HB 5836, which would provide funding to domestic violence programs to provide on-site staffing at their emergency shelters 24 hours a day.

Currently there are 18 domestic violence programs throughout the state that provide hotline, shelter, criminal court based, police department, and community education services. In FY 2006, they provided services to 53,006 victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is an on-going problem – we cannot predict when or where it will occur. When a victim seeks help to escape a violent situation it must be immediately provided. However, only three programs have 24- hour staff, and may not have the ability to shelter someone due to lack of space. It is imperative that domestic violence victims receive help when they reach out for it, and this bill would provide more services to do so. We look forward to working with you to address these important issues. Thank you for your consideration.

35th anniversary
PCSW

the State's leading force for women's equality