



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

90 Pitkin Street
East Hartford, CT 06108
(860) 282-7899
(860) 282-7892 Fax
(800) 281-1481 (CT only)

Member Shelter Programs

The Umbrella
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Women & Families
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center
Danbury, CT

United Services, Inc.
Domestic Violence Programs
Dayville, CT

Network Against Domestic Abuse
Enfield, CT

Greenwich YWCA
Domestic Abuse Service
Greenwich, CT

Interval House
Hartford, CT

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis
Meriden, CT

New Horizons
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain, CT

Domestic Violence Services
New Haven, CT

Women's Center of SE CT
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven
Waterbury, CT

United Services, Inc.
Domestic Violence Programs
Willimantic, CT

To: Members of the Appropriations Committee

From: Erika Tindill, Esq.

Date: February 11, 2009

Re: ACC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2011, and
Making Appropriations Therefor.

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of
the Appropriations Committee. My name is Erika Tindill and I am the
Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic
Violence. Thank you for accepting my testimony regarding Bill 6365: An
Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2011,
and Making Appropriations Therefor.

I am here this evening to ask you to seriously reconsider eliminating
Connecticut's Commissions, in particular the Permanent Commission on
the Status of Women, the African American Affairs Commission, and the
Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission. The Connecticut Coalition
Against Domestic Violence has long established relationships with these
three commissions and can attest to their value.

CCADV has been working collaboratively with the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women since our inception in 1979. They have served as the liaison between government and many groups providing services for women; in essence they act as the trade association for all women's issues in Connecticut. They oversee many activities that directly impact victims and survivors of domestic violence in Connecticut. They were instrumental in convening the Trafficking in Persons Council, which has a tremendous impact on the services our member programs provide. Most recently, PCSW was an active participant on the Domestic Violence and Immigration Task Force whose goals were to identify public policy changes needed to encourage reporting, to ensure the safety of these victims, and to provide the necessary support service.

On our side, CCADV is an active participant of PCSW's Women's Health Campaign, a statewide coalition of experts and advocates working together to improve health care for women and girls. The Commission's research and work on all these groups has led to the recommendation of several positive policy changes about the way domestic violence victims are responded to and assisted in Connecticut such as requiring police intervention in domestic violence to prevent women from further abuse, lobbying for funding for increased access to translation services for victims, and strengthening court-ordered child support.

CCADV also has ongoing relationships with both the Commission on African American Affairs and the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission. As part of our strategic plan, CCADV has identified the need to increase services to underserved populations while diversifying to recruit and retain top talent to better serve victims. Equipped with

the common goal of advancing the status of African-Americans and Latinos, both Commissions have partnered with CCADV to produce change within their various communities. Those partnerships include the development and distribution of domestic violence materials geared towards their particular populations. They have also co-sponsored events that included a mock court in Spanish and several of our conferences and tabling events throughout the state.

Now I am sure you are thinking a few events here and there and a couple of partnerships doesn't make the case for keeping these Commissions alive. So I will say this; the work of each one of these Commissions has led to the advancement and promotion of eliminating domestic violence in Connecticut. They are our "go to people" for facts, figures, research and support on a variety of topics related to their own particular communities. I know that we are not the only organization that calls upon their expertise. The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence does not and will not ever have the time and resources to do what can be accomplished with a single phone call to any one of these Commissions. That is why I am here this evening to ask you to reconsider the Governor's proposal to end their much needed work.

Thank you.