

**Testimony of Daphne Davis
Before the Appropriations Committee
In Support of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Wednesday, February 11, 2009**

My name is Daphne Davis and in 2006, I was an unemployed single mom on state assistance and was finding it extremely difficult to find employment due to my criminal record.

I saw an ad in the paper for the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (NEW) Training Program. This was a program for women that were interested in pursuing a career in the building and construction trades.

I completed an application and went through assessment process and was accepted into the program.

I can not express enough how much the support from the PCSW has changed my life. Through the program PCSW provided, I gained the confidence and motivation to pick myself up and not be a victim anymore because of my past. I got my driver's license and a car. I worked extremely hard to get my high school diploma. I am thrilled to be attending Capital Community College in the Spring (2009) to pursue a career as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor.

One of the more important issues that needed to be addressed was my criminal record and with the assistance from PCSW, I am now in the process of getting my pardon.

I know of many women that the PCSW has assisted and to not have the Commission available to the many more women that will follow me would be devastating.