



City of Boston

Boston Women's Commission

Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor

Marie A. Turley  
Executive Director

February 15, 2013

Representative Craig A. Miner  
House Republican Building  
L.O.B. Room 4200  
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Toni E. Walker  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 2702  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Representative Miner and Representative Walker;

I am writing to urge you to retain and continue to fund the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) as an autonomous agency in Connecticut.

In an era when women's rights are relentlessly challenged, such as the attacks on women's reproductive health during the recent presidential election and in many states' legislative proposals, the defeat of the Paycheck Fairness Act last year, and the balking of our current Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, we need organizations like the PCSW to be a public voice for those hard won rights in its home state of Connecticut, in the New England region, and nationally.

In Connecticut, as you well know, among the many reasons the PCSW is indispensable is the role it takes in reviewing pending and existing legislation from the perspective of the impact on its constituents—women, girls and families. It provides technical assistance to your state's government agencies as well as women's and girl-serving organizations. And it has long been a promoter of the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education for Connecticut's students, both girls and boys, to prepare them for the well-paying jobs that will demand employees educated in these disciplines.

The PCSW's leadership and experience is integral to the state and local commissions in the region. It was a model and a valuable mentor when Massachusetts' local commissions and women's organizations successfully passed legislation to create the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

As a city commission, we are acutely aware of the financial challenges facing governments at all levels, but I believe that the women of Connecticut are well served by the less than 1% of the state budget that funds the services provided by the PCSW.

Again, I respectfully urge you to allow the PCSW to remain a stand-alone agency.

Sincerely,

Marie A. Turley  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Harp  
Senator Kane