February 15, 2013

Senators Harp and Kane and Representatives Walker and Miner,
Appropriations Committee
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

As part of a nation-wide project to advance the dialogue on women's equality (Vision2020) we have collaborated closely with the CT – PCSW in the last 2+ years to translate what that meant for the state of Connecticut.

Our initial endeavors were focused on translating nationally, the success that CT had achieved by putting in place a bi-partisan, funded organization as an arm of Government. We found that in having the PCSW, CT was unique and women had gained visibility and voice through the commission's efforts for 40 years, something which women in NO other state in the country had.

In September 2012, we partnered more closely with the CT PCSW to jointly host a Conference focused on CT's women with a targeted message to get involved and get out the vote in the 2012 elections. Over 150 women from all walks of life participated in discussions that helped them understand better the issues they face and how their vote would impact their own lives at home & in the workplace.

It is important to recognize that without the PSCW staff and leadership putting their time, effort and resources behind the initiative – this conference would not have been possible and CT women would have been poorer for the valuable engagement, debate, discussion the attendees enjoyed which ultimately helped them to make an informed choice while voting.

CT has been a leader and a best practice and the PCSW has been at the forefront driving the conversation on equality, safety and justice for CT's women.

The work the PCSW does is vital to closing the gap on women in leadership – from the current 18% to a more equitable representation. We write in support of the continued work of the PCSW for the benefit of the women of CT.

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