The Women's Campaign School at Yale University

February 14, 2013

The Honorable Toni Harp
and
The Honorable Toni Walker
State of Connecticut
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Senator Harp and State Representative Walker,

I am writing on behalf of the Women's Campaign School at Yale, who is pleased and honored to be standing with the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

In addition to my affiliation with the Women's Campaign School, I am also a former PCSW Commissioner, having served on the board for close to 25 years, 8 as its chairperson.

Women of the State of Connecticut need and deserve the work of the PCSW to continue as a free standing, legislative agency.

I am mindful of the difficult economic times Connecticut is facing. However, combining the PCSW with other agencies is poor public policy. The work the PCSW does on behalf of more than one half of our state's population, is more critical now than ever--during this challenging economic climate. Collapsing the PCSW into a pool of other agencies sends the wrong message to women in our state. How does one support "pay equity", for instance, yet simultaneously suggest combining the PCSW with others?

As we celebrate our fortieth year as an agency and strong voice for Connecticut women, I urge you to please continue to stand with us, and say "yes" to those women in our state, with no voice except the one of the PCSW.

Respectfully,

Patricia Russo