



February 11, 2013

RE: Permanent Commission of Women Support

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter of support to continue the advocacy programs and services that the CT Permanent Commission of Women provides that is led by Teresa Younger, Executive Director. I am the CEO/President of The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County which supports victims of both domestic violence and sexual assault ([www.cwfefc.org](http://www.cwfefc.org)) Last year, in our 6-town region of Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull we served over 4600 victims of domestic violence and 230 victims of sexual assault.

The Permanent Commission of Women is a resource to our agency (there are also 18 DV agencies in CT and 9 that provide Sexual Assault support) that serves women of all races, religion, immigrants, socio-economic backgrounds and women who have been incarcerated. The Center for Women and Families is the ONLY agency in CT currently serving full support counseling and wraparound programs for women currently incarcerated in York prison in Niantic, CT reentering our region of Eastern Fairfield County. The advocacy laws, push to help women have equal pay, equal educational opportunities and fair practices in the work place is just one of many advocacy issues provided by this commission.

As the US is working 24/7 to move VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) re-enacted through the Senate, it is clear that the Permanent Commission of Women will work side by side with CCADV (CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence) and CONNSACS (Connecticut Sexual Assault Coalition) to protect, advocate and continue to focus on women's issues. Without this Commission, our daughters, sisters, granddaughters, nieces and mothers will not have the support necessary for women that need this advocacy.

There is much work to do! I have been a female Executive Director in the non-profit sector for 35 years and have seen discrimination, hostile work environments against women, lack of diversity support and ignorance towards violence against women. In the past 4 years the most PROMINENT issue I have seen is lack of follow-through in Whistleblower policies in CT and surrounding states. Who will hold these employers accountable? Who will protect these women who are unfairly terminated for being a whistleblower? Who has the legal fees to fight corporate companies that let people lose their livelihoods because they have been wrongfully terminated! The answer right now is we MUST take action.....we need the Permanent Commission on Women as our "voice". Please do not hesitate to call, email or contact me for further information at [dgreenwood@cwefec.org](mailto:dgreenwood@cwefec.org) or (203) 334-6154. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Debra A. Greenwood, CEO/President

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753 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604 • Tel: 203/334-6154 • Fax: 203/579-8882 • Website: [www.cwfefc.org](http://www.cwfefc.org)