

Senators Harp and Kane and Representative Walker and Miner,

My name is Leslie Karen Hammond, I am from New London. I am here to oppose the proposed consolidation of legislative commissions, particularly the merging of PCSW with other organizations.

The PCSW is a valuable resource to the women of CT. Several years ago I personally benefited from the program that made mammograms available to those that could not afford one.

Furthermore, I speak on behalf of every woman you are not personally financially responsible for or women you are related to, because those women have your voice when necessary to look out for their best interests.

Being a Native American and a woman working in a male dominated industry, I can speak first-hand about discrimination. It takes having more than a voice today to bring attention to the need of any minority. The PCSW has been the voice for hundreds of thousands of women over the past 40 years.

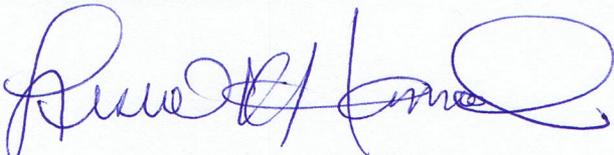
It's been my privilege over the past 8 months to serve as the President of the SECT Women's Network. This opportunity has opened my eyes to the substantial impact an organization can have on a community. Theresa Younger came to speak at our organization a few years ago and made a significant impression upon me as a developing leader. It's the vision of people like Ms. Younger and the PCSW – the vision to preserve and protect the rights and to educate women. This vision is what continues to pave the way for the future of our great state and for the rights of your daughters, granddaughters, nieces and your mothers.

As a leader I've been I understand it's your job to look at things from a numbers perspective. I assure you, I am so much more than a number and so are all these women that join me in speaking out for the continued funding and of the PCSW and the preservation of its autonomy.

Women rights will need defending until the day we are equal. You may argue that we are, but you know that in your hearts we are not there yet. Until the day someone can hire a young woman without thinking twice about when she'll start having children or until we receive equal pay, there is a need for the PCSW.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,



Leslie Karen Hammond
President of The SECT Women's Network