

**Written Testimony of  
Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD,  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
February 19, 2013**

Testimony in **OPPOSITION** to the consolidation of Commissions proposed in:  
**H.B. No. 6350 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING  
JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE**

Dear Senator Harp, Representative Walker and honorable members of the Appropriations Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Anne Hulick and I am the state Co-Director of Clean Water Action and Coordinator of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT (Coalition) is a large, diverse advocacy group united in our concern on the health impacts of exposure to toxic chemicals in consumer products. We are proud that the Permanent Commission for the Status of Women is a member of the Coalition.

I am testifying in opposition to the proposed consolidation of the Commissions and in support of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

Unfortunately, the growing body of scientific research on the chemicals in products we use every day shows that many of these synthetic chemicals are carcinogenic, neurotoxic and disrupt our endocrine systems. Many of the endocrine-disruptors have estrogenic properties, meaning that they mimic the hormone estrogen in our bodies. There is growing consensus among the scientific community that exposure to these toxic chemicals in our homes and environment is the #1 cause for the rise in many serious diseases. In particular, these chemicals have been linked to many serious diseases that affect young girls and women. One in eight women are projected to get a breast cancer diagnosis in the United States. Early puberty, reproductive disorders and infertility are on the rise. Difficulty in conceiving and maintaining a pregnancy affected 40% more women in 2002 than in 1982 and the incidence of this has doubled in women ages 18-25.<sup>1</sup> As part of the Coalition, the Permanent Commission for the Status of Women plays a unique and vital role in bringing these issues to the forefront through education, advocacy and policy. The Commission has been instrumental in raising the profile of these health impacts to young girls and women and played a key role in advancing policy that supports more health protective policies for women. This is good for women, families and the state as improving these health statistics reduces health care costs.

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<sup>1</sup> Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, *"The Health Case for Reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act"* (2011) p. 3.

I understand the very difficult fiscal situation of the state and recognize that difficult choices need to be made, that work needs to get done differently and that we can not maintain the status quo. I understand that the legislature is faced with very difficult decisions. Consolidation of similar work often makes sense in corporations. As a former nurse administrator, I lived through this and advocated for these types of changes many times during my career. In this case, however, I believe that while it may reduce expenses in the short term, the long term impact may actually add to the overall financial burden to the state. The Permanent Commission for the Status of Women plays a vital role in advancing policies that promote equity on many fronts. Without their unique voice, Connecticut may balance the budget now and fall far behind in the long run. I urge you to oppose consolidation of the Permanent Commission for the Status of Women.

Thank you.