

**Written Testimony:
Retain the Permanent Commission On the Status of Women
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As a woman who grew up in the '60s, I am keenly aware of the progress made in the areas of women's employment, legal rights and health issues. No longer do ads say "Men Only" and now women easily establish credit cards in their own names.

However, I believe that women still need strong representation by the PCSW, as the challenges of being mothers and caregivers makes life especially complicated. In our 24/7 world, people's attention is the new currency. For women, the push-pull between working and caregiving leaves little time to systematically address subtle, long-standing barriers to true equality between the sexes.

Women need a consistent, vigilant voice to ensure a platform for our perspectives and talents. Keep the Permanent Commission On the Status of Women. As articulated in a recent article in the New York Times, translating political beliefs to personal actions often requires difficult choices. (*Why Gender Equality Stalled*, by Stephanie Coontz - 02/17/13).

We need the PCSW to help us clarify and confirm our rights, and our options.