



URU, The Right To Be, Inc.

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Governor Daniel Malloy
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

I am writing regarding your proposed state budget for 2013-15 that would consolidate the legislative commissions into one agency. I strongly oppose this proposal.

I support that The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women be allowed to continue their work as a single agency. Since its inception in 1973, the PCSW has made great strides towards creating gender equality. But this work is far from over.

The Violence Against Women Act is facing lengthy debate over its validity. The Paycheck Fairness Act continues to linger in legislative limbo. This is not the time to diminish our support of women, but rather to work harder to achieve equality.

To suggest that the issues facing children, Asian-Americans, Latinos, and African Americans are interchangeable is deplorable – to say nothing of your proposal to eliminate the commission on aging entirely. Your proposal sends a clear message to women voters – that you do not wish to see women be economically secure, hold leadership positions, be able to advocate for their health and safety, and that gender discrimination should continue.

With a woman as strong as Nancy Wyman as your Lieutenant Governor, I trust that you understand that women are not second-class citizens. However, women represent 51% of the population and are consistently treated as a minority. Surely, you know how important it is that The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women remains PERMANENT. Your task to control budget spending is admittedly a large one – However, the PCSWs allotment is less than 1% of the State budget.

I urge you to continue to be a strong supporter of women's rights and progress in the area of gender disparity. I urge you to find ways to balance the State's budget that do not require the disposal of this critical legislative commission.

With regards,

Crystal Emery
Executive Director
URU, The Right to Be, Inc.