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**Testimony of
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Before the Judiciary Committee
April 15, 2013**

**Re: S.B. 1158, AAC Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking
H.B. 6683, AAC the Abatement of a Public Nuisance
H.B. 6696, AAC Enhanced State Efforts to Prevent Human Trafficking
H.B. 6702, AAC Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**

Senators Coleman and Kissel, Representatives Fox and Rebimbas, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) regarding several bills before you today.

**S.B. 1158, AAC Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking
H.B. 6683, AAC the Abatement of a Public Nuisance
H.B. 6696, AAC Enhanced State Efforts to Prevent Human Trafficking**

Impact on CT Women¹

- Between 2008 to 2011, 100 human trafficking victims were identified by State agencies. Of the 100 victims, 82 were children.
- Between 2009-2010, 109 human trafficking victims were identified by non-governmental entities.
- 100% of the above victims were female.

Since 2004, PCSW has convened the Trafficking in Persons Council (Council) to study the issue of human trafficking and make recommendations to the state Legislature. The Council has made recommendations that resulted in the establishment of criminal penalties and civil remedies; victim-friendly curriculum for training of providers, state agencies, and law enforcement, and; funding for housing and public awareness and education.

¹ PCSW, *Trafficking in Persons Council Annual Reports*, 2008-2011; Department of Children and Families, *Welcome to DCF's Response to Human Trafficking and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth*, August, 2011.; Paul and Lisa Program; International Institute of Connecticut, Inc.

PCSW urges passage of three bills before you today - S.B. 1158, H.B. 6683, H.B. 6696 – which will assist in combating human trafficking by limiting a traffickers ability to profit from criminal activity, and raise public awareness and education. Specifically, the bills would:

- Increase criminal penalties for persons patronizing a prostitute under the age of 18 (H.B. 6696);
- Allow the Superior Court to vacate criminal convictions for prostitution involving victims of human trafficking (H.B. 6696);
- Require the forfeiture of criminal assets derived from commercial sexual exploitation of a minor (S.B. 1158);
- Increasing a town’s ability to shut down business that trade in humans, i.e. prostitution and massage parlors, by including the issuance of three citations as grounds to bring a public nuisance action (H.B. 6683), and;
- Require bilingual public awareness and education about services for human trafficking victims (S.B. 1158).

H.B. 6702, AAC Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Impact on CT Women:

- Twenty-six percent of Connecticut women and 10% of Connecticut men are sexual assault survivors.²
- 40.8 % of rape survivors were raped by an acquaintance, 13.8% by a stranger, and 2.5% by a person in authority.³
- Of those victimized by an intimate partner, 85% are women and 15% are men. In other words, women are 5 to 8 times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate partner.⁴

PCSW urges passage of H.B. 6702 which would provide additional protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by enhancing restraining order protocol and allowing victims of sexual assault to terminate rental agreements.

We look forward to working with you to address these important issues. Thank you for your consideration.

² Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS). *Sexual Assault in Connecticut Fact Sheet*.

³ Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS).

⁴ Lawrence A. Greenfeld et al. (1998). *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*. Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Justice. NCJ #167237.