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**Testimony of
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Before the Judiciary Committee
March 17, 2014**

Re: S.B. 462, AAC Civil Restraining and Protective Orders

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 the above referenced bill.

Impact on Women: In 2013, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence provided services to 56,178 victims.¹ The number of individuals victimized is unknown since many do not report the abuse and/or seek assistance.

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that could include physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or financial abuse. Domestic violence affects the health status of many women throughout the state, no matter their racial, ethnic, cultural or socioeconomic status.

Many victims of domestic violence do not leave their situation because of finances. S.B. 462 would address this issue in the short-term by requiring the alleged abuser to maintain utility services, health, automobile and homeowner's insurance, rental or mortgage payments, and safety or basic needs until a hearing is held on the restraining or protective order application. Additionally, this bill would address safety concerns by strengthening criminal penalties for the violation of a restraining or protective order.

Connecticut has made many advances in establishing law and public policy regarding domestic violence. This bill would further Connecticut's policies to protect victims of domestic violence. We look forward to working with you to address these important issues. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV).(2013) Domestic Violence Service Statistics, Connecticut. Retrieved from <www.ctcadv.org>.