

March 4, 2015

Senators Bye and Kane, Representatives Walker and Ziobron, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

As a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Connecticut (GFWC/CT), I became interested in PCSW as I realized how much the mission of each of these organizations has in common.

GFWC/CT and PCSW support and address the issues of women; their safety, their welfare, and their health. GFWC/CT is a community service organization across Connecticut that focuses its efforts on the issues of women and children in the neighborhoods and towns of its members. PCSW has been the voice of women in this state for over 40 years and its efforts to educate and advocate to our state government on problems or issues relating to women has been a remarkable one. It seemed sharing the knowledge PCSW has with our members would be a productive way to achieve our mutual goals. It has been an honor to serve as a commissioner and to be involved with a commission that not only evaluates laws and policies for the potential impact on women, but gathers information, analyzes that information, and shares it with state agencies, state leaders and the public. PCSW has been so successful in this regard that it has been approached by organizations nationwide. It encourages women to become leaders that can positively affect the future of entire families.

As the State of Connecticut searches for ways to streamline its budget, please do not reduce funding that helps to ensure women's health, safety, and financial security.

JoAnn Calnen

Commissioner, PCSW

Member, General Federation of Women's Clubs of CT