

TESTIMONY OF MARITZA BOND SUBMITTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS AND HIGHER EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 19, 2016

*H.B. No. 5044 - An Act Making Adjustments to State Expenditures for the Fiscal Year
Ending June 30, 2017.*

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and members of the Committee, I, Maritza Bond a **Commissioner** for the **Permanent Commission on the Status of Women** (PCSW) submit this testimony to **propose** that funding for the PCSW be **maintained** with no further reductions. The PCSW are the voices of all of Connecticut's women and are vital to promoting efforts that reduce disparities.

I have dedicated the past two years serving as a Commissioner because I support the mission and priority areas that the Commission has dedicated to accomplish. These priority areas include, but are not limited to, *pay equity, reducing sexual violence, encouraging women-owned business, encouraging women's leadership, and human trafficking*. The PCSW currently operate with a budget of (\$540,000), which costs 39 cents per capita for every woman over the age of 18 (about 1.4 million per latest U.S. Census).

While working efficiently, the PCSW leadership and staff, are committed towards analyzing how State policies affect – or do not affect – women and families and ensure that there is a check-and-balance system is critical to government integrity. The PCSW has a long, proven track record of calling out discriminatory policy and practices when needed. Reducing or eliminating any further funds will negatively impact services offered locally, regionally, and statewide. It is critical to assure that PCSW will continue to be the voices for Connecticut women.

Thank you for your continued support. For additional information, please contact me at (860) 465-8281 ext. 402 or bond@easternctahec.org

Respectfully Submitted by,



Maritza Bond, MPH
Commissioner, PCSW