

**Testimony before the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly
Feb. 19, 2016**

I wish to express my strong support for the work of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. As a resident of the State of Connecticut for more than 30 years, I have seen how the work of the PCSW has changed the lives of women and girls in our state. As the mother of a son, it has been my privilege to raise a young male in this state which is home to the preeminent commission on the status of women in our nation. How wonderful for Connecticut to model a value for gender equity not only for my son but for all of the young people of Connecticut. In this regard, in my view, the work of the PCSW is especially valuable.

As a commissioner of the PCSW, it has been my honor to serve in the interest of the women and men of our state in promoting gender equity. I was especially attracted to the PCSW because of its work in the area of pay equity, and the promotion of women's leadership. It has been impressive to see the tireless energies of the staff of the PCSW contributing to making a difference in the lives of Connecticut residents, especially for women who have limited voice in our community. It recognizes, researches, provides advocacy for and investigates the current issues in our state today that in very real ways impact the lives of the diverse groups of women across political, racial/ethnic, regional, religious and socioeconomic lines who live in Connecticut.

For me, as a professional educator, the research reports and papers developed by the PCSW are valuable tools for use in the classroom to inform and address an array of issues effecting women across our state. As a woman who has experienced gender discrimination I have found the work of the PCSW to be especially empowering in my life by being an advocate for change. The work of the PCSW indeed contributes to and is critical to the continued improvement of the quality of life especially for women and girls but for all of Connecticut's residents.

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