



Susan Bysiewicz
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 19, 2021

Sen. Flexer, Rep. Fox, Sen. Haskell, Rep. Thomas, Sen. Sampson, Rep. Mastrofrancesco, and the honorable members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

As chair of the Governor's Council on Women and Girls, I am writing to express the Council's support of **SB 883 An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Governor's Council on Women and Girls**.

Upon taking office in January 2019, one of our administration's first actions was to form the Governor's Council on Women and Girls, comprised of the Governor's cabinet members, representatives from each of the other constitutional offices and representatives from each of the four major legislative caucuses. The mission of the council is to provide a coordinated state response to issues that impact the lives of women, girls, their families, and the State of Connecticut. The council is charged with focusing on four areas of impact, each represented by its own subcommittee: education and STEAM; economic opportunity and workforce equity; leadership; and health and safety. The council, through its subcommittees, works with an over 100 organization Steering Committee of organizations that voluntarily dedicate their time to support council priorities and assist us in our work to make equality and advancement for women and girls a true state-wide effort.

The Council on Women and Girls is supporting this legislation to help facilitate equitable gender and racial representation in state government. Sections 1 – 4 address the barrier of childcare expenses when a candidate is running for state elected office under the citizens election program by expressly allowing reasonable childcare costs directly related to campaign activity to be eligible program expenses. This legislative change will not only open the door for more parents to run for state office, but given the harsh reality that childcare responsibilities continue to disproportionately affect women, this legislation would also help mitigate gender inequities that could result from use of the citizens election program in pursuing elected office.

As noted above, leadership is a priority for the Council. The Council's Subcommittee on Leadership aims to promote leadership in both the public and private sector, including in government elected and appointed positions. This legislative proposal directly advances some of the purposes for which the Leadership Subcommittee of the Council was created. With women making up over 50% of our state population but only 27.8% of our state Senate; 35.1% of our state House of Representatives; and 33% of our state constitutional officers, this legislation is necessary and timely.



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Sections 5 and 6 require appointing authorities to consider recommendations from organizations that represent the interest of gender and racial diversity when seeking people to serve on state boards and commissions. It also codifies a transparent process for people to express interest in serving on boards and commissions and offers more direct access to membership and other relevant information about what such public service entails.

The members of the Council on Women and Girls and I are committed to working with the General Law Committee to further advance this legislation. We are looking forward to partnering with you in these efforts.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Bysiewicz".

Susan Bysiewicz
Lieutenant Governor
State of Connecticut