From:

To: commissionstreamlining

Subject: COMMENT IN SUPPORT OF SAN FRANCISCO COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**Date:** Tuesday, September 30, 2025 4:46:00 PM

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Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Taskforce,

As a community leader, I am writing to express my strong support for preserving the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women as a standalone body, with its full powers and independence intact.

At a time when women, girls, and gender-expansive people are still fighting for basic rights, from bodily autonomy and equal pay to safety and access to essential services, we need institutions specifically dedicated to advancing equity. The Commission on the Status of Women plays a vital role in ensuring that San Francisco lives up to its values of inclusion, transparency, and justice.

The Commission's responsibilities are significant: monitoring complaints of unlawful treatment of women, investigating systemic inequalities, and recommending policies that advance gender equity in health, employment, and safety. Commissioners advocate for women, girls, and nonbinary people, analyze city policies, review budgets and grants, and hold the City accountable to its commitments on gender equity.

Equally important, the Commission brings together diverse leaders, experts, and advocates who reflect the communities they serve. It provides a platform for public participation and acts as a necessary counterbalance within our local government structure.

I urge the Task Force to preserve the Commission's independent voice, governance authority, and nominating power. These are not optional features, they are fundamental to real democracy and to San Francisco's ability to lead on gender equity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kudrat D. Kontilis
Commissioner, San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission
\*Title only for identification purposes