

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN & GIRLS

Dr. Rita Gallardo Good
Chair

Nisha Devi Rodrigo
First Vice Chair

LTC Erica G. Courtney
Second Vice Chair

Lisa Zola Greer
Member-at-Large

Catalina Chacon
Member-at-Large

Senator
Monique Limón
Commissioner

Assemblymember
Lisa Calderon
Commissioner

Assemblymember
Stephanie Nguyen
Commissioner

Senator
Laura Richardson
Commissioner

Senator
Suzette Martinez Valladares
Commissioner

Assemblymember
Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Commissioner

Lilia Garcia-Brower
Commissioner

Kawser Amine
Commissioner

Quinn Delaney
Commissioner

Joelle Gomez
Commissioner

Darcy Totten
Executive Director

To: San Francisco Commission Streamlining Task Force

From: California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Subject: Support for the Commission on the Status of Women

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

I am writing on behalf of the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls to express our Commission's strong support for the continued existence of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) as a standalone body with its full powers intact.

With a mission to help transform San Francisco into a fully gender equitable City, COSW's work in championing the equitable treatment and advancement of women and girls in social, economic and political sectors, could not be more important. When we empower our local commissions, the populations they advocate for – thrive. With almost a million people calling San Francisco home, being able to address the needs of everyone isn't possible. COSW can bridge that gap and positively influence the futures and livelihoods of those they help. The COSW plays a critical role in ensuring San Francisco lives up to its values of inclusion, transparency, and justice. Additionally, COSW is part of a broader network of local Commissions that ensure local voices have a seat at the table of statewide conversations.

San Francisco made history by establishing one of the first Commissions in the country and became the first to create a Department to enact the Commission and City's goal of advancing and ensuring equity for all San Franciscans. COSW is deeply committed to creating a space for all voices and is one of the most diverse in the city, despite its small size. Commissioners identify as trans and queer, come from a range of racial and ethnic backgrounds, are caregivers, and have a diverse set of backgrounds and expertise. That pioneering legacy should not be erased or weakened through consolidation or elimination. Representation and civilian oversight matters. True democracy depends on representation and balance, not on consolidated power in the hands of any one office.

COSW brings together diverse leaders, experts, and advocates who reflect the communities they serve. It provides a platform for public participation and a necessary counterbalance within our local government structure. In this current political climate, California cannot send the message that the local voices of women are expendable.

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF **WOMEN & GIRLS**

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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darcy Totten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darcy" and last name "Totten" clearly distinguishable.

Darcy Totten
Executive Director
California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls