

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** letter in support of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women  
**Date:** Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:16:23 PM

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Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued existence of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women as a standalone body with its full powers intact.

My family has benefited greatly from FAM (Family & Me), a program for at-risk foster youth that's funded by the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. For the last 2 years, we have participated in the FAM pilot program, which gave us the support we desperately needed and could not get from HSA or SFUSD because of limited funding or budget cuts.

Prior to joining the FAM program, we were struggling to meet my foster teen's needs. In the months prior to enrolling in FAM, she had multiple suicide attempts and ran away without even taking her phone. She was reading at a 2nd grade level and was at high risk for sex trafficking. Once we enrolled in FAM, we were able to get additional support to meet her needs, including a reading specialist, judo lessons and a social skills group.

These interventions might sound modest, but it's been a game changer for our family. My teen feels more confident & able to defend herself, communicate her needs and is able to read her own text messages and navigate public transportation without relying on strangers to read things for her. More importantly, she is no longer suicidal and it has been more than a year since she last self-harmed.

FAM exists because the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women made sure the program got the funding needed to provide these services, recognizing there were many gaps in what HSA & SFUSD were able to provide. Our foster teen is alive today and thriving in part because the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women prioritizes supporting programs for girls like her.

At a time when women, girls, and gender-expansive people are still fighting for basic rights, the Commission on the Status of Women is deeply committed to creating a space for all voices and should not be erased or weakened through consolidation or elimination. I urge the Task Force to preserve the Commission's independent voice, governance authority, and nominating power.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Laura Barnett  
Outer Sunset

Foster Parent & Concerned Citizen

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Cell: [REDACTED]