From:

To: <u>commissionstreamlining</u>

Subject: Public Comment – Preserve the Governance Authority of the Commission on the Status of Women

**Date:** Wednesday, October 8, 2025 11:36:03 AM

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To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed recommendations that would diminish the authority and independence of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women (COSW).

The COSW has long served as a vital governance body advocating for gender equity, community safety, and the empowerment of women and girls across San Francisco. Reducing this Commission to an advisory role would strip it of its ability to meaningfully influence policy, oversee departmental leadership, and allocate resources to critical programs. This change would undermine decades of progress and silence a key voice for marginalized communities.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to grant the Mayor unilateral authority to appoint and remove commissioners without cause or Board of Supervisors oversight. This recommendation erodes democratic checks and balances and opens the door to politicization of commissions that should remain independent and community-driven.

I urge the Task Force to:

- Retain COSW as a Governance Commission with its current powers intact.
- Reject any proposal that removes the Commission's role in selecting its department head.
- Preserve the current appointment process that includes Board of Supervisors approval to ensure transparency and accountability.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to inclusive governance.

Sincerely,

Razan Ezzeddin

San Francisco, CA