

**From:** [Pacific & Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition](#)  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** Retain the powers of the Commission on the Status of Women  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:12:46 PM

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Dear Chairperson Harrington and members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force:

I write on behalf of the Pacific Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition (PAAWBAC) to urge that the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) be maintained as an independent and autonomous governing body under the City Charter. PAAWBAC is a non-profit organization formed in 1980 to promote the personal, professional, and political interests of Asian Pacific Islander women in the San Francisco Bay Area. Two of our founders have served on the COSW.

The COSW, along with the Department on the Status of Women (DOSW), has a proven and decades-long track record of fulfilling its core mission to eliminate discrimination and promote equal economic, social, political, and educational opportunities for women and girls. It has tackled issues including employment equity, domestic violence, sexual assault, and affordable childcare.

Of note, the DOSW was instrumental in reducing domestic violence and homicides, decreasing lawsuits against the City for sexual harassment, and aiding survivors of human trafficking. In many cases the DOSW's work in developing policy initiatives and collaborating with community partners and law enforcement on these issues became a model for other jurisdictions to follow.

Please do not dilute the effectiveness of the COSW by turning it into an advisory-only body. Now, more than ever, hard-won rights and protections for women must be preserved, and the Commission on the Status of Women, as the standard-bearer for advancing gender equity in the City and beyond, must retain its full powers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katherine Lee  
PAAWBAC Board Member