
WHEREAS, the California Commission on the Status of Women, a non-partisan state agency, established in 1965 by then-Governor Pat Brown, works in a culturally inclusive manner to promote equality and justice for all women and girls by advocating on their behalf with the Governor, the Legislature, and other public policymakers, and by educating the public in the areas of economic equity including educational equity, access to health care including reproductive choice, violence against women, and other key issue areas significantly affecting women and girls; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are more women than men in the state, accounting for nearly 19 million residents; and, the amount of $265,000 budgeted for the Women’s Commission this fiscal year (a 43% reduction from the $465,000 in previous years) represents an investment of less than $0.02 per California woman and an insignificant 0.0002% of the $137 billion state budget; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s decrease in current funding for staff will effectively be gone by the end of April 2012 and will result in no staff support for the work of the Commission, and the Governor has called for the elimination of the Commission itself beginning July 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Budget Project, the economic downturn has had a disproportionate impact on women, and undoubtedly, proposed additional cuts to state-funded services in childcare, welfare, eldercare, healthcare, and public education will further exacerbate the impact on women and their families; and

WHEREAS, the integral role of the California Commission on the Status of Women of gathering input from local communities state-wide to advise the Governor, the Legislature, and other public policymakers on critical issues and analyzing proposed legislation and polices designed to address those critical issues has never been more important with the prolonged economic downturn and state-wide budget crisis; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara, recognizing the importance of the agency’s role, established its own Commission on the Status of Women in 1973 to advocate for the rights and equality of women and girls in Santa Clara County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Santa Clara strongly opposes the elimination of the California Commission on the Status of Women from the state code and urges Governor Jerry Brown to reinstate the funding for the California Commission on the Status of Women to ensure that the state government meets the needs of all California residents, including women and girls.
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on ____________________________ MAY 22, 2012 ____________________________ by the following vote:

AYES:  Corteze, Kniss, Shirakawa, Wasserman, Yeager

NOES:   NONE

ABSENT:  NONE

ABSTAIN:  NONE

George Shirakawa, President
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Lynn Regadanz
Interim Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Approved as to form and legality:

Neysa Fligor
Deputy County Counsel

Resolution Opposing Elimination of State CSW
And Urging the Reinstatement of Funding