



DATE: May 20, 2015

TO: California Commission on the Status of Women & Girls (CCSWG) Commissioners

FROM: Legislation /Research Sub-Committee

- Commissioner Alisha Wilkins
- Commissioner Senator Hannah Beth Jackson

RE: CCSWG Legislation & Advocacy Policy – DRAFT

Section 8246 of the CCSWG bylaws authorizes the commission to take positions on legislation and or propose the introduction of legislation to the legislature.

8246.

- (a) The commission is expressly authorized to inform the Legislature of its position on any legislative proposal pending before the Legislature and to urge the introduction of legislative proposals.
- (b) The commission is expressly authorized to state its position and viewpoint on issues developed in the performance of its duties and responsibilities as specified in this chapter.
- (c) This section is declaratory of existing law.

As such, the Legislation/Research committee would like to propose the following policy and process be used by the commission in its advocacy efforts in support or opposition to legislation impacting women and girls; and or directly referencing CCSWG.

CCSWG Legislation & Advocacy Policy

The Commission shall provide information, policy analysis, and research to elected officials and policymakers regarding issues that impact California's women and girls.

It is the policy of the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls that:

Our policy priorities will directly correspond to our statutorily mandated areas of focus and should we seek to sponsor legislation, it shall first be conceptually approved by the Legislation Subcommittee and brought to the full Commission for final approval as part of an annual list of policy priorities.

The Commission shall receive monthly written reports from the Commission Executive Director summarizing the status of legislation affecting women and girls or Commission responsibilities, along with the Commission's recommended official position on such legislation, if any. The report shall include an analysis of consistency of each bill with Commission policy and with the Commission's Mission Statements.

Requests for the Commission to take a position on proposed legislation shall first be considered by the Legislation subcommittee. Upon recommendation by the subcommittee, Commissioners assigned to the subcommittee, or a Commission staff representative shall bring the vetted request to the Commission for action at a Commission meeting.



Under extraordinary circumstances and at the discretion of the Commission Chair, proposed legislation may be placed on the agenda for consideration of action by the Commission. In addition, the Executive Director with approval of the Legislative Subcommittee and Chair may provide a public position to any legislation that specifically references the Commission.

When immediate action is needed on high priority bills, in the absence of a full commission convening, the Legislative Committee may submit to the Commission Chair bill(s) for consideration and approval.

A Commissioner, making clear that she is not representing the entire Commission in any official capacity, may support or oppose legislation apart from the Commission.

Next Steps include:

1. Refine priority statements to be used as litmus test for determining support/opposition to legislation.
2. Review and approval of advocacy process and tactics.
3. Develop strategy for monitoring implementation of legislation affecting women and girls.