



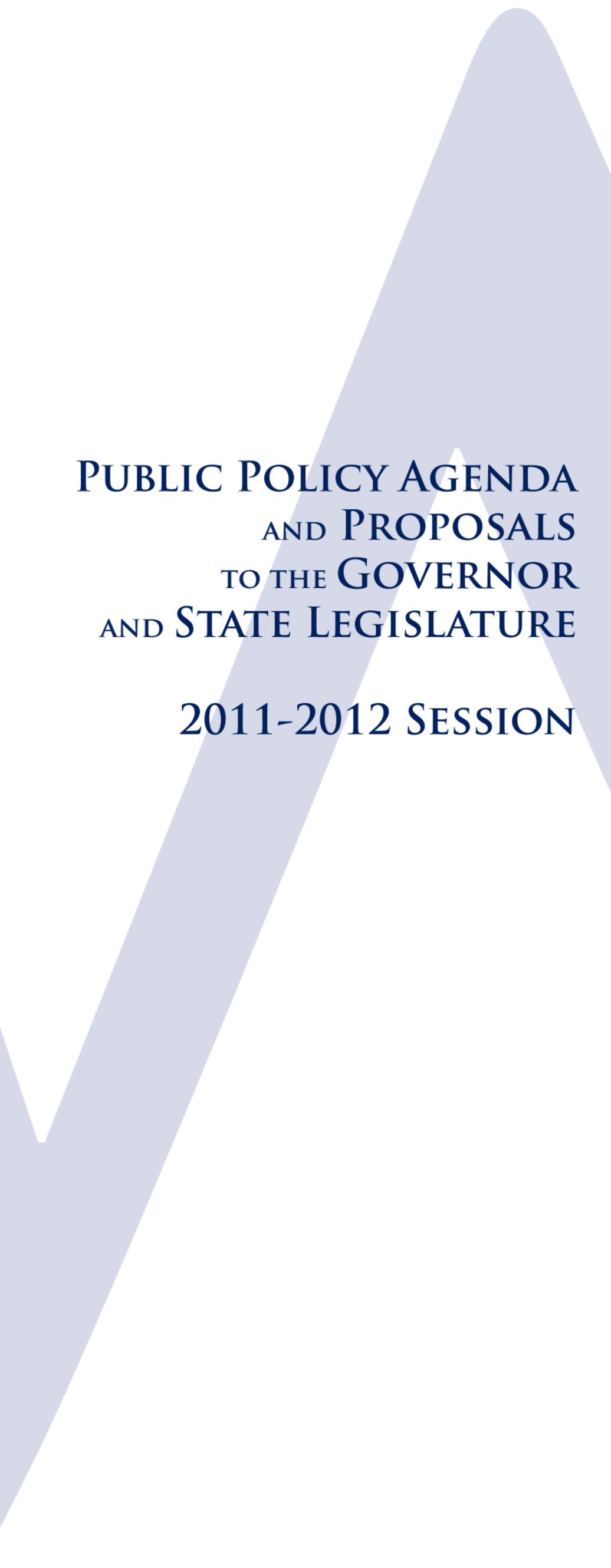
PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA
AND PROPOSALS
TO THE GOVERNOR
AND STATE LEGISLATURE

2011-2012 SESSION



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Our Vision

No Woman Forgotten

Our Mission

The Commission on the Status of Women is a nonpartisan state agency which works in a culturally inclusive manner to promote equality and justice for all women and girls in California.

We do so by advocating on their behalf with the Governor, the Legislature and other public policymakers, and by educating the public in the areas of economic justice, educational equity, access to health care including reproductive choice, violence against women and other key issue areas identified by the Commission as significantly affecting women and girls.

Our Work

For more than four decades, the California Commission on the Status of Women has carried out its mandate to advocate for women and girls in California. We collaborate with numerous state and local organizations as we work on the many issues impacting women and girls. Through use of printed materials and our website, we provide information and education about the status of women and girls in California. To better identify the needs of women and girls, we hold public hearings every two years. In the summer of 2010, hearings were held in Pasadena, Redding and Sacramento. The testimony received in these hearings is reflected in our recommendations. At this particular time, the issue of greatest concern is the impact of the budget cuts on the well-being of all Californians and on the future of our State. The following proposals are designed to meet important needs and to eliminate inequities for women, thereby benefiting all Californians.

2011-2012 PRIORITIES

As priority areas being proposed to the Governor and State Legislature, the Commission supports the following agenda:

1. Increase and streamline funding for quality child care for all children from birth to age five in low-income families (**Child Care**)
2. Adequately fund safety net programs that serve women and their families (**Economic Security**)
3. Expand eligibility for job-protected family and medical leave to a greater number of workers (**Employment**)
4. Require employer-provided health insurance coverage to be fully protected for all workers on leave for pregnancy-related conditions or bonding with a new child (**Employment**)
5. Increase public awareness of the Paid Family Leave program (**Employment**)
6. Ensure that the needs of women and girls are fully and carefully met in state legislation related to implementation of federal health care reform, including
 - input of women in the design of services and regulations
 - provision of a full range of services, including family planning clinic funding
 - access for immigrant women

- fairly priced insurance premiums with coverage for preventive health care services, including contraception, benefits for breastfeeding support and quality breast pumps for the length of time needed, and treatment of sexual trauma and abuse as reimbursable mental health services (**Health**)
7. Enforce the Anti-Reproductive Rights Crimes Act to diminish harassment, barriers to care, and social or regulatory discrimination (**Reproductive Health**)
 8. Require health insurance plans to cover maternity services and fertility treatment (**Reproductive Health**)
 9. Increase funding for sexual assault and domestic violence programs (**Violence**)
 10. Assure that the Master Plan for Gender Responsiveness in female prisons is implemented (**Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System**)
 11. Require that pregnant prison inmates
 - be restrained in the least restrictive way possible consistent with legitimate security needs, avoiding shackling as much as possible
 - be provided appropriate pre-natal care and nutritional meals and supplements during and following pregnancy (**Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System**)
 12. Identify strategies to inform women veterans throughout the state of their eligibility for services and the continuum of care available (**Women Veterans**)

PUBLIC POLICY PROPOSALS

Budget Cuts

When the economy experiences a downturn and the state faces a budget deficit, essential safety net programs are targeted for cuts with women and children the primary victims. Adequate funding of the state's health and human services programs that primarily serve women, including CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, child care services, domestic violence services, IHSS (In-Home Supportive Services) and SSI/SSP (Supplemental Security Income/ State Supplementary Payment), is critical. Low-income women and their families would be put at significant risk without these vital resources. Increased state revenues are needed to protect these programs and balance the budget without disproportionately harming women. These and other funding issues are addressed throughout our recommendations

Child Care

Working families need access to affordable, high-quality, early care and education that will provide a safe environment and strong foundation for children. In California, more than half of women with children under age six are in the workforce, many in low-paying jobs. Current funding is insufficient to ensure the basic health and safety of children, and is far from providing the nurturance and developmental opportunities California's children deserve. To increase the availability of high-quality child care to all families, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Increase and streamline funding for quality child care for all children from birth to age five in low-income families
2. Develop a comprehensive master plan for early

care, education and after school care

3. Increase funding for child care resource and referral centers
4. Ensure that community care licensing protects children's safety and refocus the mission of licensing on prevention rather than on penalizing providers
5. Advocate for universal preschool with high quality early learning standards

Administrative Proposals

1. Ensure that the Early Learning Advisory Council addresses the needs of low-income women and children and others facing barriers

Civil Rights

Issues of equality concerning race, gender, sexual orientation and immigration status still need to be addressed. California is a major destination for human trafficking with the majority of victims being women and children who are subjected to forced labor or sexual exploitation - modern day slavery - perpetually suffering psychological and physical abuse. To move closer to true equality, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Address the issue of human trafficking by
 - implementing mandatory education/training for law enforcement and first responders on identifying cases of human trafficking of all kinds
 - ensuring victims have access to specialized supporting services including intensive case management, housing options, and legal services
 - ensuring that human trafficking victims' rights to confidentiality are protected to the same extent as domestic violence and sexual assault victims

- reconstituting the Task Force on Human Trafficking that expired on December 31, 2008, to reassess the issue of human trafficking in California
2. Require state data collection be disaggregated by gender and provide statistics on all ethnic groups in order to develop public policy that better addresses the unique needs of women with respect to health care, education, and other services
 3. Fund a pilot project to determine how program implementation in state agencies addresses the issues raised in the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
 4. Expand civil rights protections to all California residents, including undocumented immigrants
 5. Establish equal marriage rights regardless of sexual orientation
 6. Increase funding for interpreters in all civil courts, including family courts

Study Proposals

1. Provide funding for
 - a statistical analysis of the status of women and girls in California, including immigrants, in order to better inform public policy and state planning
 - a study of access to necessary services for women and girls in rural communities, including Native American communities, with recommendations for addressing needs

Economic Security

Thirty-four percent of California households headed by a single adult, usually a woman, live below the federal poverty line. Many others are part of the working poor. To move from poverty, these women need education, job training and help in overcoming

barriers to successful employment, including substance abuse, mental health problems and domestic violence. CalWORKS, the State's welfare program, provides a time-limited critical safety net for many low-income families. To improve economic security outcomes for all California women, including CalWORKs participants, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Adequately fund safety net programs that serve women and their families
2. Strengthen the education code to support homeless children and families
3. Adopt new benchmarks for measuring poverty and economic security in California, such as the Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard and Elder Economic Security Standard Index, and recalculate the standards annually
4. Promote savings and asset building by low-income women through individual development accounts (IDA) that focus on building financial management skills while saving for college, a home, or a small business
5. Increase access to safe affordable housing for individuals of all ages, including those with disabilities
6. Include strong incentives to train women for non-traditional, higher-paying jobs in the State Plan for Implementation of the Workforce Investment Act
7. Require social workers and employment development counselors to inform CalWORKs participants of their educational options and assist clients to establish realistic timelines for education and job training
8. Eliminate barriers to CalWORKs and Food Stamp assistance, such as asset limits, fingerprint imaging and quarterly reporting of income

9. Assure the CalWORKs program provides necessary childcare to all current and former CalWORKs families who meet income and eligibility requirements
10. Support cost of living increases for CalWORKs participants
11. Extend CalWORKs eligibility to adults in recovery for substance abuse and with custody of children upon release from incarceration

Administrative Proposals

1. Provide education to CalWORKs intake workers and clients regarding
 - the client's right to an exemption because of domestic violence
 - enrollment procedures for Recent Non-Citizen Entrants
 - policies regarding child-only cases
2. Provide prepaid no-cost cellular phones to low-income women to assist in seeking employment
3. Develop, identify and promote financial literacy, planning, and management training targeted to women of all ages

Education

Despite state and federal laws, gender inequity continues to be a problem, with the result that women workers continue to earn far less than men. To better prepare all California students with a fair and equal education and for postsecondary education leading to high-wage jobs, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Enact a state version of the Federal High School Sports Information Collection Act, requiring high

schools to make information regarding girls' and boys' athletic participation rates and expenditures publicly available

2. Support a college/preparatory curriculum for all high school students to assure postsecondary options for all students upon graduation
3. Increase English Language Learner programs for immigrants of all ages
4. Require the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide model policies to all CA school districts regarding LGBT students and the laws that protect them

Administrative Proposals

1. Increase enforcement of state and federal educational equity laws, including Title IX, and provide technical assistance to school districts and community colleges
2. Promote nontraditional occupations, including registered apprenticeship, science, technology, math, and engineering, to girls and women in the educational system

Employment

Though women comprise more than half of the U.S. labor force, in 2010 full-time working females still averaged only 77% of white male earnings (African-American women earned only 62% and Latinas 53%). Women frequently have major care-giving responsibilities in addition to their job duties and are often the victims of discrimination and harassment. To address the employment inequities faced by women, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Expand eligibility for job-protected family and medical leave to a greater number of workers

2. Require employer-provided health insurance coverage to be fully protected for all workers on leave for pregnancy-related conditions or bonding with a new child
3. Provide small business start-up assistance for women and minorities
4. Prohibit employment discrimination based on family caregiver responsibilities
5. Provide domestic workers with the same labor protections and standards as other workers
6. Require a minimum number of paid sick days for all workers
7. Prohibit arbitration agreements between employers and employees that require employees, as a condition of employment, to waive their rights regarding discrimination, sexual harassment and other protections provided by the Fair Employment and Housing Act
8. Continue to strengthen pay equity legislation and its enforcement
9. Support automatic adjustment of the minimum wage to keep pace with the rate of inflation
10. Require that vendors contracting with the state of California provide annual reports to the state regarding their employment of women and minorities
11. Prohibit employment discrimination based on an employee or potential employee being a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking

Administrative Proposals

1. Increase public awareness of the Paid Family Leave program

2. Require companies that include women-owned businesses as sub-contractors in proposals for government contracts to report actual contracts made with women-owned businesses

Family Law

California is failing to protect its most vulnerable children. Whether it is child support enforcement, the foster care system, or the family courts, the rights and safety of many women and children are at risk. Courts are overburdened and court personnel often lack knowledge and resources needed to address the complex issues of domestic violence and child abuse. In addition, more than 75% of family law cases have at least one self-represented party. Women often suffer financially and emotionally as a result of unjust rulings. In order to improve outcomes for children and families, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Fully fund child welfare services and programs that protect children
2. Allow extended family members a voice in child welfare proceedings to help determine the best placement for children
3. When parental rights have been terminated, allow parents or relatives to submit responses to Child Protective Services staff recommendations for child placement before they are submitted to the court
4. Establish an independent state-level oversight commission to review child custody proceedings to better inform public policy and improve coordination among public agencies, with a particular focus on cases with allegations of child abuse or domestic violence
5. Establish a multidisciplinary team of experts in assessing child abuse and domestic violence to evaluate child custody cases when allegations are

made against one of the parties

6. Strengthen the right of custodial parents to relocate without the risk of losing custody of children

Administrative Proposals

1. Require judicial education regarding
 - domestic violence and child abuse in child custody cases including the invalidity of the “Parental Alienation Syndrome” as a psychological diagnosis or assessment
 - transgender individuals to prevent discrimination in child custody matters

Study Proposals

1. Update the 1987 “Senate Task Force On Family Equity” report on family law
2. Conduct a study of gender fairness in the California family courts

Health

Nationally, more than 75% of the uninsured are in a working family. Poor health is more prevalent among women in mid-life and women of color. African American women and Latinas have approximately twice the diabetes rate of white and Asian/Pacific Islander women. California’s health care system is in crisis. More than six million residents are uninsured. Only 34% of women in California are insured directly through their employer and employers are reducing dependent care coverage. Many women, especially those of color, have lower wage jobs and are less able to afford health plan co-payments and deductibles, therefore often postponing needed medical services. Currently there is also limited access to substance abuse and mental health prevention, intervention and treatment programs, both for women and girls. To increase the quality of health care for all of California’s diverse population, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Ensure that the needs of women and girls are fully and carefully met in state legislation related to implementation of federal health care reform, including
 - input of women in design of services and regulations
 - provision of a full range of services, including family planning clinic funding
 - access for immigrant women
 - fairly priced insurance premiums with coverage for preventive health care services, including contraception, benefits for breastfeeding support and quality breast pumps for the length of time needed, and treatment of sexual trauma and abuse as reimbursable mental health services
2. Support the demonstrated healthful practice of breastfeeding by requiring all California hospitals, but especially those receiving Medi-Cal funding, to use evidence-based policies and practices that support breastfeeding
3. Address the healthcare needs of women through
 - protection for women and girls from involuntary exposure to environmental toxins, including in cosmetics
 - establishing a statewide heart disease prevention and services program for women
 - maintaining funding for the breast and cervical cancer programs serving low-income women, including the Every Women Counts Program
 - streamlining the process of establishing eligibility for services through language-appropriate community-based centers with printed information in multiple languages
 - encouraging professional medical associations to provide increased education for pediatricians and obstetricians/gynecologists regarding post-partum mood disorders

4. Protect workers by requiring ingredients of all cosmetic products, including those for use in nail salons, to be listed on the label of a product and be posted clearly on the manufacturer's website, identifying any hazards
5. Address the health care needs of tribal women and their families by
 - restoring state funding for Indian health centers
 - ensuring that the skills and cultural competency of health care providers are improved through training
 - increasing collaboration and information exchange between those working with tribal women's health and child health in both rural and urban settings
 - including tribal paraprofessionals as state-approved behavioral health care providers
6. Increase Medi-Cal and Medicaid reimbursement rates for health care providers to assure access to health care for low-income women
7. Improve California's healthcare workforce by
 - promoting recruitment of a culturally diverse health care workforce, including use of student-loan-forgiveness programs
 - supporting increased funding of nurse education, including adequate compensation, to ensure recruitment and retention of qualified nurse educators
8. Prohibit health insurance plans from containing a "transgender exclusion" regarding procedures and treatments related to being transgendered
9. Increase access to transitional housing, including cooperative living arrangements, for recovering alcohol and other drug abusers and their children
10. Eliminate marketing of "alcopops" and other alcoholic beverage products to underage girls

Administrative Proposals

1. Support the development of culturally competent community outreach networks of women to reduce the cultural and language barriers to healthcare for ethnic communities, including tribal women
2. Support the demonstrated healthful practice of breastfeeding by assisting employers and mothers with education, training and implementation of the requirement to provide lactation accommodation
3. Request that the Department of Mental Health make culturally appropriate provisions for addressing the mental health needs of tribal women throughout California in administering the Mental Health Services Act of 2004
4. Improve access to mental health programs for women and girls through
 - outreach and services that promote mental health and well-being for all ethnic groups, including tribal women and girls
 - linking mental health to substance abuse programs
 - education on the relationship of depression to sexual trauma and abuse
 - creating and providing multi-disciplinary treatment for women who were victimized as children to address the relationship between childhood trauma and the onset of mental illness in adolescents and adults
5. Establish educational campaigns on
 - cultural competency for medical providers and insurers regarding LGBT, women and disabilities, tribal women, and women of other ethnic groups
 - the unique needs of aging women, including the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of ovarian cancer, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, strokes and breast cancer
6. Increase cultural competency training for all health care providers and clinic staff to eliminate bias

based on sexual orientation or ethnicity, including Native Americans

Study Proposals

1. Conduct a study of the viability of better serving rural Californians by providing mobile health services and developing health centers in high schools
2. Conduct a study of the need for and availability of substance abuse services for women and girls and develop gender responsive recommendations for service delivery

Long Term Care and Aging

Nationwide, as many as 75% of long-term caregivers are women. California leads the way with an estimated 4 million caregivers – a value to the state of more than \$48 billion annually. In addition, the aging population has far more women than men (twice as many women as men over the age of 85). To better address the growing needs of an aging population, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Restore programs that provide in-home care for the elderly and disabled, allowing them to remain at home
2. Restore funding for adult day health care facilities to accommodate individuals with dementia and other impairing conditions
3. Restore state funding for the 11 regional caregiver resource centers and their services, including financial counseling for caregivers

Administrative Proposals

1. Measure the impact of caregiving on caregivers through inclusion of questions in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and the CA Women's Health Survey

Reproductive Health

Women's reproductive rights continue to be under attack. Low-income women face barriers to accessing reproductive health care services, including contraception. "Crisis Pregnancy Centers" are facilities that appear to be health clinics, but are primarily staffed by anti-abortion volunteers who attempt to coerce young women away from considering abortion as an option for an unintentional pregnancy, often providing biased and misleading information. HIV/AIDS is increasingly affecting women. To reduce teen pregnancy, it is critical for teens to receive accurate, comprehensive sex education. To protect the reproductive health and safety of women, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Require health insurance plans to cover maternity services and fertility treatment
2. Support state funding for family planning services to low-income women and girls
3. Support microbicide research to improve the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS and to provide women with greater control over their reproductive health
4. Provide access to condoms in prison to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among prisoners and infection of their partners, including women, after release from prison
5. Restore funding to HIV/AIDS prevention programs and patient services and strengthen programs regarding women and HIV/AIDS
6. Develop requirements or plans to incorporate small farmworker towns into county water systems to provide unpolluted water for daily use to protect reproductive health
7. Ensure that women seeking information on

pregnancy health care options are not given misleading or inaccurate information by crisis pregnancy centers

8. Support legal protections for minors who seek reproductive health care, including abortion or contraception
9. Restore the Adolescent Family Life Program budget to the 2009 pre-reduction level to better serve teen parents and access federal matching funds
10. Maintain the Cal-Learn budget at the 2009 level to serve teens on welfare
11. Restore funding of Cal-SAFE high school programs for expectant and parenting teens, with transportation, child care, adequate data collection and quality evaluation, in order to decrease drop-out rates
12. Restore funding for prevention of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including media campaigns

Administrative Proposals

1. Enforce the Anti-Reproductive Rights Crimes Act to diminish harassment, barriers to care, and social or regulatory discrimination
2. Improve access to birth control and emergency contraception for all low-income women of reproductive age, including continued education on pharmacy access and programs targeted to specific tribal and ethnic groups
3. Conduct an education campaign about HPV (Human Papillomavirus), including the potential value of HPV vaccines for both boys and girls
4. Support medically accurate comprehensive sexuality education programs that link sexually-active youth with reproductive health care services and monitor schools to ensure compliance with state law

5. Ensure that health textbooks used in the public schools include age-appropriate comprehensive sexual health education

Study Proposals

1. Request a study to investigate crisis pregnancy center practices, including the accuracy of information presented to clients

Violence

There is one forcible rape every 56 minutes in California. Six percent of California women suffer physical injuries from domestic violence every year. One in three teens experiences abuse in a relationship and is four times as likely to be a victim of sexual assault than women of other ages. The rate of violence against women is much higher for minority women, especially Native-Americans. Commercial sexual exploitation of minors and child prostitution in California has significantly increased in recent years. Exploited, prostituted youth are usually girls 11 to 15 years of age. To reduce violence against women and girls, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Increase funding for sexual assault and domestic violence (DV) programs with special attention to the following:
 - prevention education and shelters for women and children
 - LGBT domestic violence programs, including police training on the issue
 - culturally appropriate programs including access to translation services, especially in remote rural areas, for Native-American, Latino and other immigrant families
 - greater access to mental health services, affordable housing, and co-located services for survivors and their children

- an integrated statewide domestic violence data collection system
 - extensive training of law enforcement, especially rural officers, on domestic violence and sexual assault issues
2. Require that battery intervention providers and victim service providers be trained in cultural competency on intimate partner violence in all gender combinations
 3. Improve the effective use of restraining and emergency orders by
 - streamlining the application process of obtaining a restraining order
 - increasing the number of certified translators to assist with obtaining restraining orders
 - increasing law enforcement and judicial training on using emergency protective orders
 4. Establish a state office for Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls to conduct research and coordinate funding of organizations that work on violence prevention and intervention
 5. Require the State Department of Education to include teen dating violence education, including prevention and healthy relationships, in its current health curriculum framework
 6. Require school districts to establish a policy and protocol for preventing and responding to teen dating violence in middle and high school, including education and training for students, educators and staff and designation of a person responsible for handling complaints
 7. Require that a sexually exploited minor taken into custody by law enforcement be housed at a juvenile facility on a victim custody hold until the best placement option and services are identified and initiated

8. Provide sexually exploited minors with the right to an advocate in court-related proceedings

Administrative Proposals

1. Provide training for law enforcement, district attorneys, judges, first responders and faith-based organizations regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of domestic minors and minors from other countries

Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System

California's drug offense and three-strikes laws have contributed to a dramatic increase in incarcerated women (currently more than 11,000) in a system designed for male offenders. The number of girls in the juvenile justice system has also increased dramatically in recent years. To facilitate the rehabilitation and treatment of women prisoners, the majority of whom are low-risk, non-violent, and were primary caregivers for children before incarceration, and to reduce the number of girls who enter the correctional system, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Require that pregnant prison inmates
 - be restrained in the least restrictive way possible consistent with legitimate security needs, avoiding shackling as much as possible
 - be provided appropriate pre-natal care and nutritional meals and supplements during and following pregnancy
2. Require the CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to
 - establish policies to assure the safety of aging prisoners, including a geriatric work policy, "Elder Helper" assistance, age-appropriate living facilities, and transitional housing for released older women

- provide pre-release orientation, transitional housing, and case management plans for women leaving prison, including coordination with parole and community services
 - assess the prison population of women over 55 with life sentences, excluding those sentenced for life without parole, and conduct a comprehensive risk assessment to determine who would be eligible for parole
 - develop and fund programs to meet the needs of incarcerated women living with mental illness
 - provide transgender cultural competency training for CDCR staff and contract employees
3. Require that all medical personnel in female prisons be state licensed and preferably board certified in a women's health specialty area and that medical services be provided by appropriate medical personnel
 4. Improve parole outcomes by
 - establishing gender responsive parole caseloads for women and girls and training parole units in gender-specific strategies
 - establishing re-entry courts to help reduce the recidivism rate of incarcerated women
 5. Reduce the number of girls who ultimately serve time in prison by
 - funding gender-responsive programs for girls that are an alternative to custody in the juvenile justice system
 - increasing funding for drug and alcohol abuse programs to serve adolescents before they become part of the adult correctional system

Administrative Proposals

1. Assure that the State's Master Plan for Gender Responsiveness (2008) in female prisons is implemented, including

- continuing review of operational practices to assess need for change, staffing plans that protect the safety of women, and greater emphasis on rehabilitative services
 - creating a new gender-responsive classification system for female offenders thereby eliminating the over-classification of female offenders, thereby removing barriers to community and rehabilitative programming
 - assuring that CDCR implements the Alternative Custody Law (2011) in a timely manner to provide community rehabilitative alternative sanctions for non-serious non-violent women and mothers and significantly reduce the number of women in prison
2. Implement responsible state oversight of the systems for girls in local and state detention facilities
 3. Assure that counties are implementing the California Community Corrections Performance Incentives Evidenced Based Probation Supervision Practices to reduce female probation violators returning to prison and to improve their probation outcomes
 4. Provide pre- and post-release services to girls, including support for community-based services and mental health services, in order to create successful re-entry plans

Women Veterans

Currently 20% of active duty military personnel are women. More than 20% of women veterans report military sexual trauma (MST) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but many more fail to file reports. Women MST victims and their children are at increased risk of homelessness. California has more women veterans than any other state – 167,000. Because programs serving veterans have traditionally focused on men, women veterans returning from duty in conflict areas frequently lack access to services that are gender specific. To help address their needs, the Commission supports the following agenda:

Legislative Proposals

1. Require experts on women veterans as members of the California Veterans Board

Administrative Proposals

1. Identify strategies to inform women veterans throughout the state of their eligibility for services and the continuum of care available
2. Seek federal money to provide more services for women veterans
3. Identify incarcerated women veterans to better provide them with Veterans Affairs (VA) services.
4. Build criteria into transitional housing, mental health and trauma services that address the increased needs of women veterans who have experienced combat-related or sexual-assault-related trauma



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