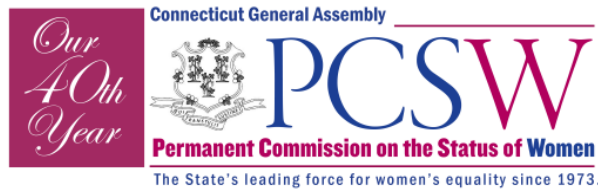


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**Testimony of
Teresa C. Younger
Executive Director
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Before the
Public Safety Committee
February 21, 2013**

**Re: S.B. 834, AAC the Trafficking in Persons Council
S.B. 856, AAC Domestic Violence**

Senators Hartley and Guglielmo, Representatives Dargan and Geigler, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) regarding **.S.B. 834, AAC the Trafficking in Persons Council** and **S.B. 856, AAC Domestic Violence**.

S.B. 834, AAC the Trafficking in Persons Council

Since 2004, PCSW has convened the Trafficking in Persons Council to study the issue of human trafficking and make recommendations to the state Legislature. The Council has made recommendations that resulted in the establishment of criminal penalties and civil remedies; victim-friendly curriculum for training of providers, state agencies, and law enforcement, and; funding for housing and public awareness and education.

The Trafficking in Persons Council remains a valuable resource to study and develop policy recommendations, however the requirement to meet three times a year is not consistent with the structure of many taskforces, and we request that it be eliminated. The Council will continue to meet as needed to address public policy concerns.

S.B. 856, AAC Domestic Violence

S.B 856 would increase the penalty for the assault of a family or household member that results in serious physical injury. Domestic violence is an on-going problem – we cannot predict when or where it will occur. It is also a problem that disproportionately affects women. Of those victimized by an intimate partner, 85% are women and 15% are men. In other words, women are 5 to 8 times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate partner.¹ This proposal would help support and protect victims of domestic violence.

We look forward to working with you to address these important issues. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ Lawrence A. Greenfeld et al. (1998). *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*. Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Justice. NCJ #167237.