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Commissioner

Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez,
Executive Director

Dear Friend:

This year California's Commission on the Status of Women and Girls celebrates 50 years of impact on state policy driving gender equity.

This includes a half century of progress at home, in the workplace, and in leadership. We are writing today to invite you to support the work of the State Commission, to sponsor our celebratory events and partner with us as we work to secure an even more equitable future for all women and girls in California.

Ever since the 1965 establishment of the Commission, California has remained at the forefront in achieving tremendous gains in equity, education, and employment for women and girls. This impact is sustained through the vision and commitment of California's policy makers, educators, advocates, researchers, and its partners at state, county, and city levels. The Commission is proud to be an effective leader and contributor to much of this work.

As you may know, the Commission does not currently have a defined funding stream in the State budget and must seek renewed support each year. We are optimistic that the final 2015-2016 Budget will have funding for staffing operations but in order to grow our statewide visibility and actions we must have complementary funding from non-governmental sources.

The Commission, an independent state agency, is uniquely positioned to help identify and initiate coordinated responses. Its strong leadership includes statutory, legislative, and public member appointees who are each catalysts for change—change that will help achieve gender equity in California and beyond.

There is still a lot of work to be done. Despite significant gains, gender equity remains elusive for many women and girls. In order to continue this work we need your support.

We invite you to join us in creating this change. For the next year we will be showcasing the strides made while creating opportunities to move issues forward. The Commission plans to lead continued reform efforts through public hearings and educational forums, research, outreach, and collaboration with state and local agencies, advocacy organizations, the business community, and the general public.



Our immediate goals include the following:

- Growing the number of women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and careers;
- Exploring the wage gap in California, particularly for women of color, and identifying comprehensive strategies to shrink the gap;
- Partnering with the California Department of Veterans Affairs to increase women veterans' awareness and usage of earned state and federal benefits;
- Building a readily available, comprehensive database of California policies, programs, state and federal laws, issue information, and other resources relevant to women and girls.

We salute the significant efforts of our past Commissioners and pledge that the Commission will carry on its work to increase equity, access, and justice for women and girls in California.

Your support for our fundraising efforts will make a significant difference. We look forward to celebrating an even greater impact as we work together over the next decade.

Checks should be made payable to the Women and Girls Fund established by Government Code 8250.1 to receive funds to support the activities of the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, 900 N Street, Suite 390, Sacramento, CA 95814. The Tax ID number for the Commission is 68-0285369.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission's Executive Director, Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, at 916-651-5405, 916-715-3037 or Nancy.Kirshnerrodriguez@women.ca.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauri Damrell".

Lauri Damrell, Commissioner
Fundraising Subcommittee Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ofelia Alvarez-Willis".

Ofelia Alvarez-Willis, Commissioner
Fundraising Subcommittee Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez".

Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, Executive Director