



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton

Illinois Council on Women and Girls

To the residents of the State of Illinois,

As we find ourselves mid-way through 2022, the Illinois Council on Women and Girls (the "Council") is pleased to report and reflect on the progress that we have made.

On March 22, 2022, the Gender-Based Violence Committee held a virtual "Know Your Rights" event. Moderated by Amanda Pyron, Executive Director of The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence, the first event brought together leaders and advocates to provide a general overview of what gender-based violence is, how to identify gender-based violence and other warning signs, and what a survivor's legal rights are when facing this issue. Speakers included Vickie Smith, President and CEO of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Erin Walton, Executive Director of Resilience; Nastasha Powers, Medical & Legal Advocate for the YWCA of McLean County's Stepping-Stones Program and Esmeralda Gonzalez, a community organizer from Chicago. The Gender-Based Violence Committee would like to give a special thanks to everyone who made the event possible and looks forward to continuing to bring attention to this issue.

Additionally, the Council is delighted to note after two years of convening virtually, the Council has resumed in-person meetings. On May 17, 2022, the Council held its second quarterly meeting of the year in Chicago. The Council would like to thank the North Lawndale Employment Center (NLEN) for hosting. During this meeting, members were encouraged to share ideas for topics and issues the Council should focus on more over the next year. The Council is eager to tackle these new ideas together and continue the work addressing issues pertaining to Illinois women and girls.

This letter serves as a mid-year report for the work of the Illinois Council on Women and Girls, per 20 ILCS 5130/30.

In December of 2021, we filed the 2021 Illinois Council on Women and Girls report, which we encourage you to review for updates on all that we were able to accomplish in the last year.

As we continue our policy and advisory work, we shall file a comprehensive report for the year on December 31, 2022, the upcoming deadline per statute for the Illinois Council on Women and Girls' reporting period. This report will be sent to the Governor and General Assembly, in addition to being made accessible for review by all Illinois residents via the website hosted by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Sincerely,

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls