



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 2021, the Illinois Council on Women and Girls (the "Council") is pleased to report and reflect on the progress that we have made.

This past March, for Women's History Month, we hosted a virtual summit in partnership with an array of organizations and individuals committed to uplifting the voices of Illinois women and girls. Through five events focused on topics ranging from mental health to young women in leadership, the #WeAreOne Women and Girls Virtual Summit allowed us to shine a light on an extraordinary selection of women and girls who represent diverse identities across lines of race, age, gender identity, and disability. The summit was a true display of the commitment this Council has made to uplift the experiences of all women. Throughout the summit, we garnered over 80,000 social media impressions and 20,000 unique video views, making it the most successful virtual series that the Office of the Lieutenant Governor has organized to date.

Additionally, this year we welcomed the inaugural cohort of the Girls Committee, a subcommittee comprised of high schoolers who will provide recommendations for the Council. The Academic and Economic Opportunity Committee received 312 applications to the Girls Committee and selected 9 girls from across Illinois. Several Council members volunteered to review applications, and diversity and equity played a key role in this selection process. Our council strongly believes that bringing the voices of diverse young women and non-binary people to the table greatly enhances our ability to understand the impact of our work across Illinois. We are thrilled to have the Girls Committee members join our Council.

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 2020, we filed the 2020 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, 2021, 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 Office of the Lieutenant Governor website.

Sincerely,

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls