



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton

Illinois Council on Women and Girls

To the residents of the State of Illinois,

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls (the Council) is pleased to report on the activity of the Council throughout the first half of 2023, from January 4, 2023, through June 30, 2023.

On March 15th, the Gender-Based Violence Committee held its 2nd webinar, "Know Your Rights: Cultural Competency in Gender-Based Violence Services." Moderated by Amanda Pyron, Executive Director of The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence, this event brought together a diverse panel representing communities and regions throughout Illinois to discuss their work in addressing the cultural nuances in serving clients, families and communities dealing with gender-based violence.

This webinar featured panelists from the following organizations: Brave Space Alliance; The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence; Mujeres Latinas en Acción; KAN-WIN; and Crisis Center Foundation. Gender-based violence remains a critical issue and those impacted by it can be empowered through knowing their rights and what resources are available.

The Council on Women and Girls has been working to launch the inaugural Girls Lead pilot program. This shadowing opportunity pairs junior high and high school-aged girls with women legislators to learn more about the work of the Illinois General Assembly, and the unique challenges and opportunities faced by women legislators. Nearly 250 girls applied to shadow a bipartisan group of 29 legislators and the Lieutenant Governor. Participants will begin the program in the second half of 2023.

On June 27th, the Health and Healthcare Committee hosted a public discussion called, "Gun Violence: A Public Health Crisis." This event was developed in response to the national gun violence crisis, and it was an opportunity to honor those lost and impacted by the July 4, 2022, Highland Park mass shooting. The webinar discussion was led by Dr. Scott Pasichow (SIU School of Medicine), Dr. Richard Austin (SIU School of Medicine), Jen McGowan-Tomke (NAMI-Chicago), and Chris Patterson (Crown Family Philanthropy).

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

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls' annual report was filed in December of 2022, and we encourage you to review it to gain insight on Council activities and accomplishments.

As we continue our policy and advisory work, we shall file a comprehensive end of year report, 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