



JULIANA STRATTON

LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR STATE OF
ILLINOIS

June 30, 2024

To the residents of the State of Illinois,

As we find ourselves mid-way through 2024, the Illinois Council on Women and Girls (the “Council”) is pleased to report and reflect on the progress that we have made.

In March, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau spoke to the Council regarding the gender pay gap. This information included providing the Council with information on a variety of grants and apprenticeships that are aimed at strengthening the career pipeline for women. Shortly after this presentation, they invited the Lt. Governor to speak at a Department of Labor event that was centered on Paid Leave, which highlighted states that have made huge strides in legislation on behalf of women’s rights.

The Council currently has five subcommittees: Gender-Based Violence, Health and Healthcare, Girls Committee, Leadership and Inclusion, and Academic and Economic Opportunity. We plan to spend a significant amount of time over the next six months expanding these subcommittees. Each will also pick at least one goal/project that they would like to focus on. For example, the Gender Based Violence Committee is exploring how they can partner with financial institutions to support victims who have been financially exploited and/or abused.

In the coming months, we will launch our Girls Lead and Girls Committee programs. Girls Lead is a job shadow program that launched last year. Last year, girls were paired up with General Assemblywomen to spend a day learning about that particular career path. This year, we intend to expand the program. We will recruit women in all senior leadership positions within state government. We hope that by expanding the mentor pool we are able to provide this experience to more girls throughout Illinois.

Girls Committee is a unique, year-long program for high school girls. They attend our Council meetings to add their voices to issues we discuss. This year we will be accepting nominations for the committee. Our hope is that through this process, adults can help us reach girls who may not have the resources or experience to apply for an opportunity like this on their own. Both of the applications for these programs will be released after school starts for the year.

This letter serves as a mid-year report pursuant to 20 ILCS 5130/30. It is an honor to serve on this Council and work on programs and policy that will continue to make Illinois the best place for women and families.

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls' annual report was filed in December of 2023, and we encourage you to review it to gain insight on Council activities and accomplishments.

As we continue our policy and advisory work, we will 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

214 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Phone: 217.558.3085
Fax: 217.558.3094
TTY: 800.563.7110

www.ltgov.illinois.gov

555 West Monroe
Ste. 1500NE
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Phone: 312.814.5240
Fax: 312.814.5228