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Women's Commission Publishes First Report with Recommendations for Women's Equity

Olympia, WA —

The Washington State Women's Commission published its first biennial report on Monday, 26 July 2021. The report highlights the work undertaken by the Commission in its first two years and presents recommendations to the legislature and Governor's Office to address issues of economic security, economic opportunity, safety, health, and racial equity.

In June of 2018, Governor Jay Inslee signed House Bill 2759 into law, establishing the Washington State Women's Commission. The Commission is tasked with gathering data and providing policy recommendations to the legislature and executive branch regarding issues disproportionately impacting women, ensuring more equitable opportunities and participation by dismantling systemic barriers.

To spearhead the Commission's work, the Governor appointed a diverse group of women leaders from the private sector, public health and healthcare, the justice system, community-based organizations and nonprofits, and labor. Since their formation, the Commission has met with legislators, issue experts, community leaders, and stakeholders across Washington state to collect input for recommendations on improving equity, access, and participation for women in all areas of endeavor.

Their first biennial report provides a review of the Commission's work since its establishment. The report serves to:

- Introduce Commissioners and Commission staff;
- Outline the critical issues that women in the state of Washington face, including childcare access and affordability, pay inequality, racial disparities in health and healthcare delivery, violence against women, and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women;
- Summarize the priorities and past work of each of the Commission subcommittees, in partnership with businesses, professionals, and community organizations across Washington state; and
- Present policy recommendations for consideration by the legislature and executive branch as well as those in the private and non-profit sectors.

"We are immensely grateful to the leaders, experts, advocates, and everyday community members who have shared their research, work, and lived experiences with the Commission," said Regina Malveaux, Director of the Women's Commission. "This report represents just the beginning of our work. We look forward to further conversations and partnerships in our continued efforts to ensure every woman and girl is healthy, safe, prosperous, and empowered to achieve their full potential."

The full report is available on the Commission's website, at www.wswc.wa.gov.