



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2016

Cary Brown, Executive Director
Vermont Commission on Women
126 State Street, 2nd Floor
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Dear Cary:

This letter is to inform you that the Senate Appropriations committee did concur with the House to include approval of the U.S. Department of Labor Grant to the Commission in the FY 2016 Budget Adjustment Act. This approval was given with the understanding that as Committee Chair, I would communicate the Committee's understanding of how the Commission intends to proceed with grant implementation. As you well know, approval for this grant was not given through the JFC process because of concerns that were raised by several Legislators over the conflict of interest that several lobbying/advocacy organizations identified in the grant application would have if selected to conduct any of the associated work needed to produce the study being funded by the grant.

While committee members spent considerable time discussing the advisability of adding restricting language to the grant acceptance, in the end we decided not to do so. This was in large part due to your commitment to seek the expertise of an academic institution to work with the Commission to produce this study of the feasibility of a paid family and medical leave program for the state. We appreciate your understanding of the concerns that were raised and your commitment to select contractors who do not engage in lobbying or advocacy activities to influence Legislative action.

For the Committee
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jane Kitchel".

Senator Jane Kitchel

cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
Stephen Klein, Legislative Fiscal Office