

UMCSW Agenda March 13, 2018
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Arlington, MA Public Library, 4th Floor Conference Room
700 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA (781) 316-3200

1. Public Comment
2. Review of Minutes from January 9, 2019 Meeting
3. MA Senate Docket Number 1523 (SD.1523), anti-discrimination/anti-harassment legislation for any person seeking investment funding (See Attachment A)
 - a. Introduction and Discussion by State Senator Cindy Friedman and Gita Swamy
4. UPCSW Mission Discussion
 - a. Review of Proposed Process for Mission Development (November 7, 2018 Meeting)
 - b. Update from Data Collection Subcommittee
 - c. Discussion of Potential Scenarios
5. Preparation for March 28, 2019 Advocacy Day (See Attachment B)
6. Grand Submission Update & Thank you Donna Barry
7. Discussion of Potential Future Agenda Items
 - a. Visit by Commissioner from another established Regional Commission
 - b. Women's Empowerment Workshops on Financial Literacy/ Treasurer's Office

Attachment A

From: Gitanjali Swamy <gitanjali.swamy@gmail.com>

Subject: MA SD1523: An act relative to sexual harassment - Your Support is Needed!

Dear Friends

Recent revelations highlighted by the #metoo movement have unearthed serious legislative gaps in our sexual harassment and discrimination statutes. Today, private investors like venture capitalists are not subject to either federal or state sexual harassment statutes, which cover employer-employee and landlord-tenant relationships, but do not cover capital provider relationships. This is unfortunately true in the Massachusetts statute.

As reported in many recent news accounts across the country, women entrepreneurs very often face sexual harassment and discrimination from private investors such as venture capital firms and thus, have an increasingly difficult time receiving funds to start their business. According to an analysis by Fortune Magazine, companies founded by women received less than 3% of venture capital funds in 2017; far less, 0.2% goes to women of color. In addition, while women start companies at twice the rate of men, female-founded companies get only 13% of the funding available. In no small part, this disparity is due to the predatory and discriminatory behaviors that women entrepreneurs face in accessing capital. California was the first state in the U.S. to address this problem after a series of incidents called for a legislative solution – and it is our hope to do the same here in Massachusetts.

To address the gap in legal protections and the resultant socio-economic impact, MA State Senator Cindy F. Friedman has sponsored a bill in the Massachusetts State Senate, *An act relative to sexual harassment*. The goal of the bill is to close the loophole in MA State statute to ensure that it is unlawful for any person whose business includes granting funds or engaging in investment transactions to sexually harass or discriminate against any person, not just an employee.

The bill has been assigned Senate Docket Number 1523 (SD.1523) and can be viewed on the Massachusetts Legislature's website [at this link](#) and attached to this email. We strongly solicit your support in making this bill a law; You may either send email to mabill1523@gmail.com or reach out directly to the state house to share your support. Please also forward and communicate this information to all like-minded stakeholders that will be interested and committed to providing support.

With sincere a Thank you in advance from all of us and the office of Senator Friedman for your support for this landmark MA legislation.



Please join the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, the Upper Middlesex Commission on the Status of Women, the City of Malden, and Tailored for Success, Inc. for a

Regional Public Hearing on Women's Issues

We want to know about the issues that affect you, your children, your family, and your community.

Community leaders and local residents are invited to testify.

Oral and written testimony will be accepted.

Open to the public.

We want to hear from YOU

When

Thursday, March 28th

4:30 pm — 6:30 pm

Where

Malden Senior Center Auditorium

7 Washington St, Malden, MA 02148

Who Are We?

The MA Commission on the Status of Women is responsible for studying, reviewing, and reporting on the status of women in the Commonwealth, and is charged with advising executive and legislative bodies on the effect of proposed legislation on women.

Regional public hearings allow the commission to collect testimony and opinions on women's issues and concerns.

Contact Us

Please call or email for **more information** or to **RSVP**:

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To arrange **reasonable accommodation** and/or interpretation services, contact Jill Ashton at: jill.ashton@state.ma.us