



TESTIMONY TO OMB  
REGARDING THE DHR BUDGET  
ON BEHALF OF  
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
&  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DE  
November 2017

Good morning. I am speaking on behalf of AAUW and the League of Women Voters of Delaware. Our focus is the new Office of Women's Advancement and Advocacy, and we applaud the Legislature and the Administration for establishing it.

Efforts up to now to ensure that Delaware is a haven for gender equality have been piecemeal, although we do recognize that important measures have been adopted that move us toward that goal.

With the creation of this new Office, there is now a focal point for such efforts.

Being in its start-up year, this new entity will have much to do to set its agenda, hire staff, and get the several new councils up and running. Progress will understandably be slow. But for FY 19, we urge full funding for this Office.

The authorizing legislation calls upon this Office to perform a wide range of tasks. One is to carry out research on issues related to the status of women in Delaware. Data-based decision making can then flow from this work. As with all efforts, resources, including adequate staffing and funds for contracting when needed, will be essential to allow the Office to perform this research and all the other tasks within its mission.

We urge the Governor to provide the funding, as requested, so that this important work can be done. Thank you on behalf of all the women of Delaware.