



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

August 13, 2014

Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor

Virginia Council on Women
1111 E. Broad Street, 4th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Council Members:

Thank you for your service to the Commonwealth and your contributions to the Council on Women. Your work with the STEM Scholarship Contest is outstanding and I look forward to your continued success with this initiative.

I was pleased to review the *Working Women in Virginia* report that the Council produced last year and I am proud that we have already made progress on a number of the recommendations. I urge the Council to work with my administration to continue looking at ways we can improve the lives of women in the Commonwealth.

My intent is for the Council to build upon the recommendations you have already put forth, by focusing in on a few specific areas. Specifically, I would ask the Council on Women to form a "Women's Healthcare Initiative" subcommittee to look at the issue of women's healthcare in Virginia and develop recommendations on what our state government can do to improve access to quality healthcare. The Council can play an important role in examining policies that will best support women, and assessing the impacts of legislation on the health and well being of women.

As you know, the focus of my administration has been growing and diversifying our economy and creating jobs. To attract businesses and create more opportunities, we must ensure that Virginia is open and welcoming to everyone, including women and families. It is critical that we ensure that all Virginia women have access to the healthcare resources they need. It's not just a health issue – it's an economic issue.

I look forward to your analysis and recommendations on this important issue, as well as continued progress in the other initiatives you have undertaken. Thank you again for your commitment to the Council on Women and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terence R. McAuliffe", written over a large, light-colored scribble or watermark.

Terence R. McAuliffe