

To: Ventura County Women's Commission

From: Maricela P. Morales, Program Manager, C.A.U.S.E.

Date: Friday, November 16, 2001

RE: Opportunities to support issues affecting women (2pgs.)

Thank you, once again, for the invitation to share several current women's issues in Ventura County that would benefit from the support of the Ventura County Women's Commission. For more information on any of these women's issues and supporting opportunities please contact Maricela P. Morales at 805-658-0810 or maricela@livablewage.org.

1) Women In-Home Supportive Service (IHSS) Workers

Brief Background

Approximately 90% of IHSS workers who provide in-home care for the elderly, disabled and blind are women whose very crucial and physically and emotionally challenging work is compensated with below poverty wages (equivalent to the minimum wage or just above the minimum wage), no benefits and no training.

Opportunity to Support

A letter from the Women's Commission to the County Board of Supervisors specifying two things: a) the VC Women's Commission encourages the County to establish, as expediently as possible, a public authority that will serve as the Employer of Record for IHSS workers and b) that once established, the public authority should make it a priority to improve the wages, benefits and training for IHSS workers.

2) A Living Wage for Women

Brief Background

The County Board of Supervisors (Districts 1,3,5) approved a Ventura County Living Wage Ordinance in May 2001. Now, community based efforts in the cities of Ventura and Oxnard are underway to establish a Living Wage Ordinance setting an employee wage standard of \$9.00/hr with health benefits or \$11.25 without health benefits by businesses receiving public funds. This wage standard is just enough to raise a family of four to the federal poverty level.

Opportunity to Support

Members of the Women's Commission representing District 1 and 5 can strengthen the living wage efforts by joining Ventura and Oxnard residents, organization representatives and other formal leaders who will speak in support of a living wage during public comment at the following City Council meetings:

Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00 PM at Oxnard City Council chambers, 300 W. Third St.

Monday, December 17 at 7:00 PM at Ventura City Council chambers, 502 Poli St.

Attendance at these City Council meetings are crucial as they are one-time opportunities to demonstrate broad based support.

3) Health Coverage for Women and Children**Brief Background**

Other counties have initiated a county-wide collaborative effort to eliminate the problem of being uninsured. Women and children are well-represented in the ranks of the uninsured. Through funding from The California Endowment CAUSE is pursuing a three year project to work with the community, County Government and employers to develop a mechanism to alleviate the problem of the uninsured in Ventura County.

Opportunity to Support

A representative member of the Women's Commission is invited to join the Health Coverage Task Force (HCTF). During this first year, the HCTF will meet only 6 times and only quarterly in the 2nd and 3rd year.