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Supervisor Michael Antonovich
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Antonovich,

I would like to offer my support for a Commission for Men in Los Angeles County.

I teach psychology at Cal State Los Angeles and have written several books on men, including "The Hazards of Being Male." I also helped form Free Men in 1976, which grew into a national organization, still active today. Having spent decades researching and writing about the emotional lives of men, I believe a Commission for Men could greatly benefit our communities.

The Commission for Women helped educate women about breast cancer and other illnesses. A Commission for Men could likewise educate men about prostate and testicular cancer, steroid abuse, male sexual and reproductive issues, fathering, education, masculinity, and more. It could also address often-ignored issues such as prison rape, male sexuality, or how divorce affects men.

Men on average are far less comfortable exploring their emotions than women are. This discomfort dampens men's self-awareness and consequently their own mental health, which is directly linked to many of the problems we face today. Men's reluctance to seek mental health treatment, for instance, increases homelessness, incarceration, substance addiction, violence, suicide, and other populations that are mostly male. A well-established Commission for Men would probably save the County money by reducing these populations.

I have no doubt that such a Commission could be very beneficial. And I know no better place to form one than here in trend-setting Los Angeles. I would like to see the County form one and would be glad to offer my own input into its formation.

Sincerely,



Herb Goldberg, Ph.D.

cc: Don Knabe, Gloria Molina, Yvonne Burke, Zey Yaroslavsky.