



Men's Health Network
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December 13, 2001

Supervisor Michael Antonovich
Fifth District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Antonovich:

The Men's Health Network would like to express our support for a Commission for Men in Los Angeles County.

Why is this commission needed? In addition to the excellent work being done to improve women's lives through the Commission on Women, the Los Angeles County government should also be engaged in activities that are meant to improve the health of men and boys. A Commission for Men can develop strategies, coordinate research activities, recommend public policies, engage in public-private partnerships, and take other actions that will encourage men to engage in healthy lifestyles. It would also promote awareness of and early detection of diseases that adversely affect men, and search for answers to the perplexing problem of the deteriorating condition of men's health.

In 1920, the life expectancy gap between men and women was one year, but women now outlive men by seven years. Also, age-adjusted data indicate that the number of men who die from heart disease is double the number of women who die from heart disease, and the incidence of stroke is higher among men. Just as significant is the fact that 40 percent more men die of cancer than women, and men are at least 25 percent less likely than women to visit a doctor.

The Men's Health Network (MHN) is a non-profit educational organization made up of physicians, researchers, public health workers, individuals and other health professionals. It was created to recognize men's health as a specific social concern. With that mission in mind, MHN encourages federal, state and local government to include positive legislation and initiatives for men and families. MHN has helped to establish the Georgia Commission on Men's Health and currently supports federal legislation to create an Office of Men's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Commission for Men in Los Angeles County will make a difference in improving men's health, which is also a concern for women who have husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers. If there is anything I can do in the future to assist with the formation of this commission, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cory J. Jensen'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cory J. Jensen
Manager, Public Outreach

cc: Supervisors Yvonne Burke, Zev Yaroslavsky, Dan Knabe, Glora Molina.