

January 14, 2002

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the formation of an L.A. County Commission for Men. I write this letter as someone who has been the only man in the US ever elected three times to the Board of Directors of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in New York City. I strongly support the transition that women are making from traditional roles to options.

In the process of researching and writing books on these issues for the past 30 years (*Why Men Are The Way They Are; Women Can't Hear What Men Don't Say; The Myth of Male Power; Father and Child Reunion*, etc.), I have come to understand that, historically speaking, neither women nor men had options. Both sexes had roles, responsibilities and obligations. Women have questioned those roles with the help of Commissions on Women; men have not.

The results have been vital. In 1920, there was only a one-year difference in life expectancy between men and women; today, there is a seven-year difference. Our daughters' suicide rates are going down and that's wonderful, but our sons' are going up, and that's terrible. Our sons are doing worse in every subject matter area except math and science, are dropping out of school at a much higher rate, are less likely to attend college or graduate from college, and much less likely to attend community college. Our sons are now subject to almost every psychological problem at a much greater rate than our daughters.

A commission on men will help our sons understand why men's weakness is their façade of strength; why women's strength is their façade of weakness. It will help men understand the paradoxes of male power. It will help our sons question why they are expected to pay on dates, take more risk of sexual rejection, be the only sex legally required to register for the draft. It will help them ask why the government provides only for an Office of Women's Health even as they die earlier of all 10 leading causes of death.

The book that best explains the need for a Commission on Men is *The Myth of Male Power*. If I may supply copies of that, please let me know and I will do so at my own expense.

If I may answer any questions, I am at 760-753-5000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren Farrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Warren Farrell, Ph.D.