

Collection #
M 0777

**GENDER FAIRNESS COALITION
OF INDIANA, INC.,
RECORDS, 1986–1996**

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Processed by

Pamela Tranfield

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes

COLLECTION
DATES: 1986-1996; bulk 1990-1996

PROVENANCE: Jill Chambers, 4619 Boulevard Place, Indianapolis, IN 46208, 13
Nov. 1998

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1999.0131

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Gender Fairness Coalition of Indiana, Inc., is a statewide lobby organization supporting women's rights issues in the Indiana General Assembly. The Coalition evolved from the Indiana Civil Rights Commission's Advisory Committee on Sex Discrimination, which functioned during the 1970s. The Advisory Committee dissolved its ties to the Civil Rights Commission in the 1980s and became the Coalition Against Gender Based Discrimination. In 1991 the Coalition became the Gender Fairness Coalition of Indiana, Inc. Through the 1990s the group lobbied successfully for the establishment of the Indiana Sexual Harassment Task Force, the Governor's Commission for Women, and a statutory Indiana Commission for Women.

Member groups have included the United Auto Workers, Region 3; Church Women United in Indiana; NOW (Bloomington, Lafayette, Porter County, St. Joe Valley); Indiana NOW; National Council of Jewish Women; Planned Parenthood of North Central Indiana; AFL-CIO Lift; Fort Wayne Women's Bureau; Indiana Youth Services Association; Greater Lafayette Chapter, Indiana Pro-Choice Action League; the Caring Place; Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Indiana State Nurses' Association; League of Women Voters of Indiana; the American Association of University Women; the American Federation of County and Municipal Workers, and the Indiana Foundation on Gender-Based Discrimination Education.

Jill Chambers was chair of the coalition from 1994 to 1996. A letter to members from Chambers (26 Nov. 1996, box 1, folder 3) states: "The mission of the Gender Fairness Coalition is to level the public policy playing field for women. The responsibilities toward this end include: educating ourselves, the public and elected officials about the benefits of equity in education, in employment, in personal and community life; evaluating policies that impact on women's rights and lives; and advocating for policies to promote gender equity, fairness, and justice."

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains business records of the Gender Fairness Coalition of Indiana, Inc., dating primarily from 1990-96. The material includes correspondence, minutes and agendas, financial reports, and subject files concerning internal activities and political lobbying.

Correspondence includes letters exchanged between Jill Chambers, hired lobbyists, and elected representatives, including Senator Dan Coates (box 1, folder 6), and Governor Evan Bayh (box 1, folder 8). Other correspondence includes letters exchanged with other groups concerned with women's issues, including Planned Parenthood of Central Indiana (box 1, folder 8.) Minutes in the collection date from 1990-95.

Other material includes planning documents, reports, and conference packages relating to the yearly conference “Women and the Legislative Process.” Themes discussed at these conferences have included economic discrimination, women and health policy, equality in the workplace, and children’s rights.

Items from 1986 concern the nomination of Jill Chambers for an achievement award at the 1986 Women in the Legislative Process Conference.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0777).
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