

Connecticut General Assembly



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

# Final Legislative Report

2016 Regular Session

February-May

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women  
(1973-2016)

Farewell from PCSW's Staff and Commissioners



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# Commissioners

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## Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The 2016 Legislative Session saw four of the largest gains for women's rights. Bills to protect women from human trafficking, intimate partner homicide, campus sexual assault, and being forced to parent with a rapist all passed with bi-partisan support. Unfortunately, at the end of the 2016 legislative session the Democrats in the House of Representatives and the Senate put forth a budget that eliminates the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) from State statute. Both the Senate and House of Representatives voted in favor of this budget and the Governor is expected to sign it.

In 1973, the CT General Assembly passed, and Governor Thomas Meskill signed into law, Public Act 73-559, establishing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. The PCSW was charged with providing research and analysis on issues related to gender discrimination, women's health and safety, and economic security. In its 43 year history, the PCSW has informed many important public policies that make Connecticut a desirable place for women to live and work today.

As of July 1, 2016, the PCSW will no longer exist. The legacy of the PCSW and the work of so many dedicated women will live on in the state laws that promote women's health and safety, ensure their economic and financial security, and eliminate gender discrimination.

Some of the PCSW's most notable legislative victories include;

- prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status in credit transactions;
- prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status in public accommodations;
- requiring all state agencies, boards and commissions to develop affirmative action plans;
- changing the state's "loitering statute" to allow Connecticut women to stand in bars;
- allowing pregnant workers in hazardous jobs to transfer to a non-hazardous job for the duration of the pregnancy;
- defining and prohibiting sexual harassment under the state's Unfair Employment Practices Act;
- extending tax credits to businesses for the establishment of childcare for their employees;
- defining discrimination on the basis of pregnancy to include discrimination related to child-bearing capacity, sterilization, fertility, or related medical conditions;
- creating a statewide coordinator of services for displaced homemakers;
- establishing a committee to study the Uniform Marital Property Act;
- permitting state employees to take family and medical leave;
- establishing the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations, on which the PCSW serves;
- providing certain employees in the private sector with family and medical leave from employment;
- protecting a woman's reproductive rights by codifying the standards of Roe v. Wade;
- repealing the state's outdated adultery law;
- requiring employers with 50 or more employees to train supervisors about sexual harassment;
- requiring state boards, commissions, committees, and councils to make a good faith effort to ensure that representation reflects the gender and racial diversity of the state;
- creating amendments to the sexual assault statutes, including the criminalization of sexual conduct between a therapist and a patient and the criteria for statutory rape;
- requiring employers to report new hires within 35 days of employment so that parents responsible for child support will be identified sooner;
- requiring insurance companies to provide coverage for the removal of breast implants;
- tasking the Department of Children and Families to develop teenage pregnancy prevention programs in cooperation with other agencies and organizations;
- allowing HMO participants to have direct access to obstetrician and gynecologist services;
- allowing professional, occupational or driver's licenses to be taken away from an obligor who is 90 days delinquent with child support;
- strengthening the state's stalking law;
- requiring health insurance plans to cover a minimum hospital stay for post-maternity care; 48 hours for normal childbirth and 96 hours for Cesarean section;
- requiring insurance programs to provide coverage for a minimum of 48 hours following a mastectomy;
- providing that prohibition of public breast-feeding is a form of discrimination;
- establishing a check-off box on the state income tax form through which individuals may voluntarily designate an extra contribution to the Breast Cancer Research and Education Account;

- prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender and other factors at golf/country clubs;
- prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in public schools;
- facilitating the enforcement across state lines of restraining and protective orders in domestic violence situations;
- prohibiting employment discrimination based on the results of genetic testing;
- increasing the opportunities for welfare recipients and other workers to receive education and training combined with work;
- reforming and strengthening the procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities;
- requiring health insurers to cover prescription birth control;
- establishing a micro-loan guarantee program for women-owned businesses and minority-owned businesses;
- creating an Osteoporosis Education Awareness Advisory Council;
- extending unemployment compensation eligibility to domestic violence victims
- increasing access to post-secondary education;
- requiring compensation for education and equitable wages for early childhood education professionals;
- requiring the state to provide Medicaid coverage for all medical treatment to women who are diagnosed with cancer through the state's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program;
- requiring health insurance coverage for cancer clinical trials;
- requiring employers to provide a location for an employee to express breast milk in private;
- allowing for a statute of Prudence Crandall for the State Capitol Building, which failed, but the project continued to move forward without legislation;
- requiring the self-sufficiency measurement to be updated by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness every three years;
- requiring an increase of the minimum wage to \$6.90 in 2003, and to \$7.10 in 2004;
- requiring certain health insurance policies to cover an adopted child on the same basis as other dependents of an insured adoptive parent;
- making the violation of a restraining order in a domestic violence situation a Class A misdemeanor, and the violation of a protective order a Class D felony;
- requiring the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Mental Retardation to meet standards set by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in regard to the provision of gynecological services for women with disabilities;
- banning smoking in workplaces with more than 10 employees;
- requiring 10 hours of training for Affirmative Action Officers on the investigation of complaints of discrimination, to be provided by the CHRO and the PCSW;
- making assault that results in the termination of a pregnancy a Class A felony;
- requiring the Office of Workforce Competitiveness to consult the PCSW and establish a Career Ladder Advisory Committee that will work to create or enhance career ladder programs for occupations with a projected workforce shortage;
- making it a crime to maliciously and intentionally harass a person because of actual or perceived disability or gender identity or expression;
- establishing a source of funding for an organized community response to sexual assault;

- establishing a plan of community-based services for adolescent females involved in the juvenile court system, including substance abuse treatment programs and mental health treatment;
- requiring certain health insurers to provide coverage for comprehensive ultrasound screening for breast cancer if a physician recommends the procedure;
- allowing low-income adults to have increased access to family planning services;
- expanding coverage for couples seeking medical treatment for infertility;
- allowing two people of the same gender to enter into a civil union and be afforded all of the rights and benefits of civil marriage offered by the State of Connecticut,
- creating a criminal statute to categorize trafficking in persons as a Class B felony under state law;
- defining what it means to be a micro-business;
- permitting the Office of Workforce Competitiveness to establish a pilot program giving parents access to training to develop skills they need to get and keep jobs;
- establishing a standard of care for hospitals providing emergency treatment to female rape victims;
- establishing a 26-member Trafficking in Persons Council chaired and convened by the PCSW, an evolution from the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons;
- requiring towns, cities, school districts, fire districts, or associations to provide employees who have entered a civil union with federal FMLA benefits;
- establishing a 32-member Commission on Health Equity to work to eliminate disparities in health status based on race, ethnicity, and linguistic ability;
- redefining marriage as the legal union of two persons regardless of their sex, and transforming civil unions into marriages unless the relationship has been terminated;
- revising anti-discrimination provisions for state contracts by re-defining “marital status” and expanding categories of protected people to include people with mental disabilities;
- permitting the use of family and medical leave to care for a family member who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, or the military reserves;
- requiring all mammography reports given to a patient to include information about breast density;
- prohibiting a person from performing an obstetrical ultrasound procedure unless it is for medical or diagnostic purposes, and is ordered by a licensed health care provider;
- requiring individual and group health insurance policies to cover stepchildren on the same basis as biological children;
- establishing a statutory timeframe for the Department of Social Services to process applications for the Care 4 Kids program by reducing the amount of time to deny or approve applications from 30 days to 5 days;
- creating the presumption that a 16- or 17-year-old charged with prostitution was coerced into committing the offense by another person in violation of the laws against trafficking in persons;
- requiring state and local school boards to include information about teen dating violence and domestic violence as a part of the in-service trainings provided to certified employees;
- prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression in employment, public accommodations, the sale or rental of housing, the granting of credit, and other laws over which the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) has jurisdiction;

- extending in-state tuition benefits to people without legal immigration status if they meet certain criteria;
- requiring employers that employ 50 or more “service workers” in-state to provide accrued paid sick leave up to five days a year;
- modifying qualifications for early childhood educators who work for state-funded programs by requiring that 50% of them have a bachelor’s degree or a teaching certificate in early childhood education by June 30, 2020;
- prohibiting employers from requiring an employee or prospective employee submit a credit report as a condition of their employment;
- requiring the Department of Public Health (DPH) to name the intended parents of an adopted person on a replacement birth certificate, as opposed to the birth mother;
- increasing protection for victims of domestic violence by exempting victims from certain criminal liability;
- extending protection to those in dating relationships, and requiring offenders to surrender any firearms they possess, requiring a police officer who arrests a 16- or 17-year-old on prostitution charges to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Families (DCF),
- requiring the Judicial Branch to provide information to the public and training to court staff regarding accommodations and services for breastfeeding mothers who have been called for jury duty;
- allowing school paraprofessionals in educational settings to qualify for unpaid family and medical leave, as long as the paraprofessional has been employed for 12 months and worked at least 950 hours during the year;
- providing greater court and law enforcement support to family violence victims through several initiatives including: extending, from six months to one year, the maximum period that a civil restraining order can remain in effect without a court-ordered extension; categorizing stalking or patterns of threatening as family violence; and establishing a state-wide model family violence law enforcement policy;
- creating a class C felony when an individual or organization buys advertising space to advertise a commercial sex act depicting a minor;
- requiring certain health insurance policies cover breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in accordance with American Cancer Society guidelines;
- making veterans who were discharged for being homosexual under “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” eligible for state benefits;
- requiring, among other things, the Department of Transportation to use gender-neutral “People at Work” signs;
- establishing a task force to study the feasibility of establishing an insurance program to provide short-term benefits to workers who are unable to work due to pregnancy or the birth of a child, a non-work related illness or injury, or the need to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, or parent;
- allowing the Department of Social Services to grant up to six weeks of continued eligibility for child care subsidies to recipients who take unpaid maternity leave;
- revising the Connecticut statutes pertaining to sexual assault by defining “physically helpless” to include someone who is physically unable to resist an act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact;

- enhancing the penalties for human trafficking by expanding the definition of human trafficking, providing for the forfeiture of funds and property seized from the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or human trafficking, and increasing the penalty for patronizing a prostitute from a class A misdemeanor to a class C felony when the patron knew or reasonably should have known that the person was under the age of 18 or a victim of human trafficking;
- enhancing policies related to sexual assault and domestic violence by revising the protocol for surrendering a firearm by a person who is subject to a restraining order or a foreign order to protect;
- requires probation officers to provide notice of suspected probation violations to assigned victim advocates, and permits sexual assault victims to terminate a rental agreement without penalty under some circumstances;
- raising the state minimum hourly wage from \$8.70 to \$9.15 on January 1, 2015, \$9.60 on January 1, 2016, and \$10.10 on January 1, 2017;
- setting October 1 as the date of determining if a business has 50 employees and therefore must provide paid sick leave;
- prohibiting businesses from firing, dismissing, or transferring employees to avoid paying paid sick leave;
- requiring the Departments of Social Services and Labor to permit a Temporary Family Assistance recipient to take educational courses to fulfill the requirements of an employability plan;
- requiring public and independent higher education institutions in Connecticut to revise their sexual assault and intimate partner violence policies by requiring them to provide a written notice of rights and options to a victim immediately after reporting an incident; allowing anonymous reporting; requiring institutions to report their policy, programming, and statistical information to the Legislature; requiring institutions to include information on stalking and family violence in their annual uniform campus crime report; and requiring institutions to enter a memorandum of understanding with a community-based sexual assault crisis services center and a domestic violence agency;
- prohibiting individual and group insurance policies from imposing a co-payment of more than \$20 for a breast ultrasound screening, or more than \$30 for in-network occupational therapy services;
- allowing the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide services to any minor child who is identified as a human trafficking victim, and training to law enforcement officials about the trafficking of children;
- requiring the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Education, and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. to identify or develop a statewide sexual abuse and assault awareness program for regional school boards;
- eliminating the requirement that seized property related to sexual exploitation and human trafficking crimes be connected to monetary gain;
- defining “teen dating violence” and requiring the Commission on Children and the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence to establish a statewide school climate resource network for the identification, prevention, and education of teen dating violence;
- requiring a minimum sentence of two years for sexual assault in spousal or cohabitating relationships;

- allowing the Judicial Branch to consult with domestic violence advocates regarding the required trainings for judges, Court Support Services, guardians *ad litem*, and clerks;
- creating a domestic workers task force, which includes the PCSW, to study and make recommendations for legislative initiatives to provide outreach and education services to domestic workers and their employers by October 1, 2015;
- prohibiting the employer practice of not permitting employees to disclose, discuss, or inquire about their wages or the wages of others. The law further prohibits employees from being required to sign waivers denying them this right, and prohibits retaliation or discrimination against any employee who discusses his or her wages or the wages of other employees;
- providing interns with the same sexual harassment and discrimination protections as paid employees;
- requiring the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs to provide information and services to women veterans tailored to their unique needs;
- providing domestic workers human rights protections under the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) statutes;
- requiring police departments to transfer sexual assault evidence collection kits to the Division of Scientific Services within 10 days from the collection of the kit, and requiring the Division to analyze the kit within 60 days of receipt;
- eliminating the requirement of proving the use of force or threat to use force, fraud, or coercion in the sex trafficking of a minor under the age of 18; and
- instructing the Governor to proclaim April 4th as Annual Baby Safe Haven Day to serve as an annual reminder of the program.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes to study and improve Connecticut women’s economic security, health and safety; to promote consideration of qualified women to leadership positions; and to work toward the elimination of gender discrimination. As a non-partisan arm of the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) the agency monitors, critiques and recommends changes to legislation to inform public policy, and assesses programs and practices in State agencies for their effect on the state’s women. The PCSW serves as a liaison between government and its diverse constituents, and convenes stakeholders, including the business, non-profit and educational communities, local governments, and the media, in order to promote awareness of women’s issues.

## **RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY (RBA)**

As part of the General Assembly’s adherence to RBA standards, the PCSW has identified three “quality of life” results for Connecticut’s women. RBA is a comprehensive, data-driven way of assessing the effectiveness of programs, agencies, and systems within a larger context of population-level, quality of life results. The PCSW applies RBA principals to assess the status of Connecticut women. Our three “quality of life” desired results are:

- All Connecticut women are free from sex discrimination in all aspects of their lives;
- All Connecticut women are economically self-sufficient; and
- All Connecticut women have optimal health and wellness throughout the lifespan.

# 2016 Legislative Agenda

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) provides information, research and analysis to elected officials and the public regarding issues affecting the status of women of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds across their lifetime—from young adults to elders. The PCSW takes an intersectional approach to establishing the legislative agenda.

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

*Legislative priorities are policy measures that the PCSW takes the lead on, in partnership with others.*

### **Paid Family & Medical Leave**

Establish a system of paid family & medical leave that can support Connecticut's working families when they need time from work to care for themselves, a loved one, or for the birth or adoption of a baby.

### **Affirmative Consent & Healthy Relationships**

Help eliminate sexual violence by educating youth and young adults about healthy sexual relationships and require that an affirmative consent standard be used for investigating an alleged violation of the student conduct code at Connecticut's institutions of higher education.

### **Labor and Sex Trafficking**

Prevent and address sex and labor trafficking throughout Connecticut by supporting the policy objectives of the Trafficking in Persons Council, with particular attention on nail salons.

## PCSW ISSUE AREAS

### **Eliminating Gender Discrimination**

*Support measures to eliminate discrimination based on gender in the creation, interpretation, and implementation of law and policy.*

**Gendered Pricing-** Reduce the “woman’s tax” on feminine hygiene products and baby diapers that disproportionately affects women.

**Incarcerated Women-** Address the unique needs of incarcerated women, including; improve gender specific services, history of trauma or abuse, and ensure their right to parent children in safe and healthy environments.

### **Pay Equity**

Promote wage equality by eliminating gender segregation in the labor market through data collection, stronger anti-discrimination laws, and standard wage initiatives.

**Prostitution-** Support alternative programming for those arrested for prostitution, and encourage measures to reduce the demand for prostitution.

**Workplace Discrimination-** Enhance gender equality by promoting policies and programs that help women and families be successful in both the home and the workplace.

### **Economic & Financial Security**

*Support measures to ensure that Connecticut women are economically self-sufficient.*

**Asset-Building, Debt Reduction & Retirement Security-** Encourage financial literacy, expand access to asset-building and debt-reduction strategies, and promote retirement savings.

**Childcare-** Provide livable wages for childcare providers and affordable childcare to families so they are able to parent children in safe and healthy environments.

**Domestic Workers-** Strengthen labor laws and job protections for domestic workers.

**Education and Training-** Increase adult education and occupational skills training programs for low-skill and low-wage workers.

**Family Law-** Ensure women's safety and economic security are protected during divorce, child custody, and child support decision-making.

**Homecare-** Provide affordable homecare for families and livable wages for homecare providers.

**Housing-** Support a coordinated approach to preventing homelessness, and increase the access to affordable housing and homeownership opportunities.

**Small Business-** Provide capacity-building resources to encourage growth of women-owned small businesses, and ensure women-owned businesses have fair and equitable access to state contracting opportunities.

### **Women's Health & Safety**

*Support measures to ensure that Connecticut women have optimal health and wellness throughout the lifespan.*

**Access to Comprehensive Health Care-** Reduce gender, racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare by increasing coverage and privacy, ensuring that preventative care includes a diversity of needs, and that care is not compromised as hospital and healthcare systems are acquired and merged.

**Reproductive Justice-** Ensure all women's right to have children, not have children, parent the children they have in safe and healthy environments, and have bodily autonomy from any form of reproductive oppression.

**Urban Violence-** Support parents' rights to raise children in safe and healthy environments by reducing gun violence in urban settings and by providing trauma-informed services to victims and their families.

**Violence Against Women-** Promote the rights of all women to bodily autonomy by confronting, addressing, and preventing all forms of violence against women including rape, sexual assault and abuse, domestic and intimate partner violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and emotional abuse.

# 2016 Bill Tracking

The PCSW establishes legislative priorities, recommends legislative proposals, monitors and testifies on bills, and provides information, research and analysis to elected officials and the public regarding issues that will have an impact – whether intended or unintended – on the status of women and help to move Connecticut women toward the identified RBA “quality of life” desired results, i.e., all women being free from sex discrimination in all aspect of their lives; economically self-sufficient; and having optimal health and wellness throughout the lifespan.

During the 2016 legislative session, the PCSW monitored 117 bills and testified on 37 bills before 12 committees. The PCSW partners with many organizations in support of priority legislation. As staff of the CGA, we see our role as a strategic partner with Connecticut’s elected officials – as convener, connector, resource, and educator on legislation that affects the status of women across their lifespan, from young adults to elders.

**For a full listing of bills the PCSW monitored and testified on, please see page 18. Below are the 12 bills deemed a priority by the PCSW as most likely to move Connecticut toward the “quality of life” results we desire for all women.**

## Quality of Life Result: PROMOTING HEALTH & SAFETY

### 1. **HB 5376, An Act Concerning Affirmative Consent**

SB 5376 builds upon 2014 landmark legislation to strengthen prevention and awareness efforts at all institutions of higher education in Connecticut and ensure that victims of sexual violence receive all available supports and services. This bill requires that students and staff be educated about affirmative consent. Additionally, if a student brings a complaint of sexual misconduct forward, school investigators will use affirmative consent as the standard to determine if sexual violence occurred. A similar bill, SB 636, was introduced in the 2015 Legislative Session but after receiving a vote in the Senate, never received a vote in the House. This year’s legislation received overwhelming bi-partisan support in the Higher Education Committee, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Public Act 16-106 will become law on July 1, 2017.

#### **CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT**

A common refrain when discussion the topic of affirmative consent is that somehow by enacting this standard, scores of young men will have their lives ruined by women making false accusations. In reality, one in five women will be the victim of sexual violence while in college (White House Council on Women & Girls, 2014). Most of those young women won’t report the sexual assault. For those who do, many are met with victim blaming and often asked about their behavior, which is often assumed to have brought on the assault. “Yes means yes” legislation attempts to address victim-blaming and broaden the focus of a campus investigations from solely the question of whether or not the student alleging the sexual assault said “no” or resisted, but also on what were the affirmative words or actions that led the respondent to believe consent had been obtained.

*“Passage of this bill helps shift the culture away from one that assumes women’s bodies are there for the taking to a culture of autonomy and mutual respect. Affirmative Consent empowers men as well as women, because rather than be put on the defensive (waiting for a ‘no’) they can proceed confident in the knowledge they got a ‘clear, active and voluntary’ signal (a ‘yes’).”*

-PCSW Senior Policy Analyst, Jillian Gilchrest, Fox61, 05/04/16

*PCSW Senior Policy Analyst, Jillian Gilchrest at Trafficking Forum hosted by the PCSW and the Judiciary, Public Safety & Security, and Children’s Committees.*



## **HB 5621, An Act Concerning Human Trafficking**

HB 5621 does a variety of things to address and prevent human trafficking, particularly focused on the demand side of the crime and ensuring that the police and prosecution have the tools necessary to prosecute the crime. The bill adds members to the Trafficking in Persons Council and charges the Council with analyzing and disseminating data; requires chiefs of police and states attorneys to report to the legislature on allegations, investigations, and prosecutions of trafficking; requires hotels and motels to maintain guest transactions and train staff; raises to age 18 the age in the crime of prostitution and enticing a minor; removes the “mistake of age” defense in the crime of patronizing a prostitute; requires financial penalties for the crimes of patronizing and permitting prostitution; requires rest stops and adult entertainment facilities to post signage on trafficking; strengthens the crime of trafficking by removing the requirement that more than one occurrence of sexual contact must occur; and expands that statute regarding erasure of records to crimes related to the offense of prostitution. HB 5621 was voted unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Various sections of Public Act 16-71 go into effect throughout 2016 and 2017.

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The PCSW Chairs the Trafficking in Persons Council and in that role convenes stakeholders in conversations about trafficking in persons and annually makes recommendations to the Legislature. Many of the Council’s 2016 recommendations are reflected in HB 5621. The demand side of human trafficking and prostitution has all but been ignored in Connecticut. In fact, in the last 10 years in Connecticut, prostitutes were convicted at a rate seven times that of those charged with patronizing a prostitute. And, in the last 10 years that Connecticut has had a trafficking in persons felony charge, there have been two convictions. Strengthening efforts to tackle the demand side and punish those who benefit from human trafficking sends a strong message that Connecticut will not tolerate the purchase of sex in our state.

## **HB 5233, An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Tomosynthesis for Breast Cancer Screenings**

Currently, one in eight women in the United States will develop invasive breast cancer over her lifetime. Digital tomosynthesis is accomplished through an x-ray tube moving in an arc around the breast, taking multiple photos that are then reconstructed into one image with computer software. A 2014 report comparing the utilization of tomosynthesis in combination with traditional mammography versus solely traditional mammography showed a decrease in false positives and an increase in the detection of early cancers when both screenings were used together. HB 5233 requires certain Connecticut health insurance policies to cover, at the option of the covered woman, mammograms provided by breast tomosynthesis. This bill received bi-partisan support in the Insurance and Appropriations Committees, and in the House of Representatives and Senate. Public Act 16-82 will become law on January 1, 2017.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Domestic violence involving firearms is 12 times more likely to result in death than violence involving other weapons or bodily harm. Between 2000 and 2012, 188 domestic violence victims were killed in our state, an average of 14 such deaths each year. Fatal domestic violence has been reduced by 12-13% in states that have passed laws to remove firearms once an *ex parte* restraining order is issued.

the House of Representatives and the Senate. Public Act 16-34 will become law on October 1, 2016.

## **HB 5054, An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence**

Women in an abusive relationship are five times more likely to be killed if their abuser has access to a firearm. When a domestic violence victim takes steps to leave or end the abusive relationship, she is most at risk for fatal violence. While Connecticut has recognized victims' heightened risk during this time by allowing a judge to issue an *ex parte* temporary restraining order, this order does not require the removal of firearms as does the full restraining order. HB 5054 changes that. The bill was voted out of the Judiciary Committee,

## **HB 5605, An Act Concerning the Termination of Parental Rights**

If a woman becomes pregnant as a result of rape, her decision to continue that pregnancy should not be informed by the fact that the rapist can sue for custody and visitation rights. HB 5605 allows a woman who has been impregnated by rape to terminate the parental rights of the rapist using a clear and convincing evidence standard. (Current law requires that the rapist be convicted of sexual assault before parental rights can be terminated.) HB 5605 received unanimous support in the Judiciary Committee, the House of Representatives, and the Senate. Public Act 16-70 will become law on July 1, 2016.

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

There are an estimated 25,000-32,000 rape-related pregnancies annually in the US. According to one study, 32% of survivors continue the pregnancy. Linking termination of parental rights to a conviction significantly limits a woman's ability to parent her child and heal from sexual violence. The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence has seen cases where rapists are using the threat of suing for custody and visitation as a way to ensure that a victim does not report the crime.

## **EXPLOITIVE WORKING CONDITIONS**

After an expose on nail salons was featured in *The New York Times* in May of 2015, Connecticut's Department of Labor conducted a one-day inspection tour of 25 nail salons in early August, finding wage and hour violations at all but two—a 92 percent failure rate. Not only are customers' health and safety potentially at risk due to a lack of worker training and oversight, but the health and safety of workers is in very real jeopardy. Furthermore, after analyzing tax and unemployment data, the PCSW believes that there are a large number of nail salons in Connecticut that are misclassifying their employees as sub-contractors and not properly filing Connecticut taxes.

## **HB 5131, An Act Establishing a Task Force on Nail Salons and Nail Technicians**

Connecticut is the only state that does not license nail technicians. In 1999, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a law reestablishing a licensure program for nail technicians, which was never implemented by the Department of Public Health and was repealed in 2001. HB 5131 establishes a task force to study nail technician licensure in the state. The bill was voted out of the Public Health Committee with bi-partisan support. Although HB 5131 did not pass, there was language included in HB 5537 to establish a working group to consider matters relating to nail salons and the provision of services by nail technicians. The working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Public Health Committee not later than January 1, 2017.

## **Quality of Life Result:**

### **ENSURING ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL SECURITY**

## **SB 156, An Act Concerning the Data Collection and Analysis of Affordable Housing**

Connecticut does not maintain a comprehensive list of subsidized housing in the state, meaning that it is difficult to know where housing is located and which funding streams are being used to pay for it. SB 156 establishes a system for collecting data to better understand the availability of affordable housing in high opportunity areas to ensure that dollars spent on affordable housing are done so effectively. The bill was voted out of the Housing Committee with bipartisan support and out of the Appropriations Committee. The bill was never called for a vote in the Senate.

## **HOUSING**

In Connecticut, 78.5% of single-parent families statewide are headed by women and for some of our states lowest income families, more than 30% of their income is spent on housing. Unfortunately, the areas with the highest concentration of affordable housing in Connecticut are correspondingly the areas with the lowest average income, the lowest economic opportunity, the worst education performance, and areas characterized as food deserts that have some of the poorest health.

## CHILD SUPPORT

According to the *2015 Self-Sufficiency Standard for Connecticut*, child support is an essential piece in meeting a single-parent family's basic needs. The federal government tracks states' performance on collection of current support. On this measure, in Fiscal Year 2012, Connecticut collected a little over half of all current support due. This ranks Connecticut last amongst New England states and 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this performance measure.

## HB 5253, An Act Concerning Improvements to Income Withholding for Child Support

Child support payments from non-custodial parents are an important piece of a family's budget. Unfortunately, according to the Task Force to Study Methods for Improving the Collection of Past Due Child Support, Connecticut has approximately \$1.5 billion in uncollected child support. HB 5250 creates an intercept when an obligor makes a claim for worker's compensation benefits in an effort to improve the collection of child support. The bill

was voted out of both the Human Services and Judiciary Committees. It received a vote in the House of Representatives but not in the Senate.

*PCSW Senior Policy Analyst Jillian Gilcbrest moderated a panel on Paid Family & Medical Leave with special guest panelist Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.*



## SB 221, An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave

In 2015, the budget implementer directed certain State agencies to plan for the implementation of a statewide system of paid family and medical leave and develop and actuarial analysis to determine the logistics of said system. SB 221 is the result of four years of research, conversation, and compromise. It creates an entirely employee-funded system of paid family and medical leave based on the findings of the budget implementer required study and information obtained from the 2013 statutorily created Task Force led by the PCSW to study how Connecticut can have a system of paid family and medical leave. SB 221 received bipartisan support in the Labor Committee but was never called for a vote in the Senate.

## FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

A system of paid family and medical leave will bring Connecticut in line with the rest of the developed world in supporting public policy that helps working people achieve success in the workplace and at home. One in four new mothers in the United States are back at work within two weeks of having a new baby and nearly 7 in 10 working individuals caring for an aging parent report making work-related accommodations. Our policies must reflect the realities of working women and families across Connecticut.

## **HB 5237, An Act Concerning Fair Chance Employment**

Studies have shown that employment is the single most important influence on decreasing recidivism, and that two years after release nearly twice as many employed people with records had avoided another brush with the law than their unemployed counterparts. HB 5237 bans the box on employment applications that individuals who have a criminal record are expected to check. This bill can improve the lives of Connecticut women who have been incarcerated or have experienced the economic and emotional costs of having a relative or partner who has been incarcerated. HB 5237 was voted out of both the Labor and Appropriations Committees with bipartisan support. It was voted out of the House of Representatives and was voted out of the Senate on consent. Public Act 16-83 will become law on January 1, 2017.

### **BAN THE BOX**

According to the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Forward Together, and Research Action Design, the collateral impacts of unjust criminal justice policies are felt most deeply by women, low-income families, and communities of color. And, while the lifetime likelihood of imprisonment for women is 1 in 56, the chance that a woman of color will be incarcerated is much higher—1 in 19 for black women and 1 in 45 for Hispanic women. It is vitally important that when a woman reenters a Connecticut community, she has a fair chance at employment. And, while recidivism rates for men in Connecticut have been dropping, they remain steady for women.

## **Quality of Life Result: ELIMINATING GENDER DISCRIMINATION**

### **THE "WOMAN TAX"**

Menstruation is a biological function experienced once a month for about three to five days by most women for the better part of their lives. In a similar vein, over the first two and a half years of a baby's life, he or she will use an estimated 3,800 disposable diapers. The short-term gains of unfairly taxing women and families in no way makes up for the long-term costs associated with adding to the cost of already expensive and essential items.

### **SB 216, An Act Expanding the Sales Tax Exemption to Include Feminine Hygiene**

SB 216 exempts the sales tax on feminine hygiene products and baby diaper. Although Connecticut exempts disposable pads used for incontinence, they tax baby diapers and feminine hygiene products. This bill was initiated by the PCSW and State Representative Kelly Luxenberg and introduced in the Public Health Committee. The bill was voted out of the Public Health Committee and sent to the Finance Committee where it did not receive a vote. However, the elimination of both the sales tax on feminine hygiene products and baby diapers was included in the final finance package.

*“Getting one’s period is a biological function, not a choice. It is worth questioning why a uniquely women’s product is taxed, when so many others are not.”*

-PCSW Executive Director, Carolyn Treiss, New Haven Register,

## **SB 393, An Act Concerning Domestic Workers**

As a result of 2014 legislation, the PCSW served on a legislative Task Force to create the definition of--and study protections for-- domestic workers. SB 393 ensures that domestic workers in Connecticut are protected from labor and employment exploitation by affording them the same basic employment safeguards that most Connecticut workers already possess. This includes: overtime pay, explicit terms and conditions of employment provided at outset of

employment, and either a notice of termination or a modest severance pay. The bill was voted out of the Labor Committee but then amended in the Senate to only include an expansion of the 2015 legislation which granted domestic workers human rights protections under the CHRO statutes. The bill was called for a vote in the Senate but after a lengthy debate that primarily focused on the inclusion of *Au Pair*, the bill was passed temporarily and never called again for a vote.

### **DISCRIMINATION**

Domestic work, a female-dominated profession, has historically paid wages well below the poverty line and domestic workers continue to be excluded from some of the most fundamental labor protections other workers in Connecticut enjoy. There are more than 42,000 domestic workers in Connecticut (CT Brazilian Immigrant Center).

## **PCSW Bills Monitored**

### **Connecticut HB 5005**

**Summary:** An act concerning the taxation of social security income and the elimination of the earned income tax credit. Its purpose is to exempt Social Security income from the personal income tax and eliminate the earned income tax credit.

### **Connecticut HB 5012**

**Summary:** An act establishing a tax credit for businesses that hire recent high school or college graduates. Its purpose is to provide a tax credit to businesses that hire a recent high school or college graduate.

### **Connecticut HB 5026**

**Summary:** An act concerning parity for single-filers under the personal income tax. Its purpose is to establish a ten-year plan to phase in an increase in the personal exemption for single-filers under the personal income tax.

### **Connecticut HB 5035**

**Summary:** An act repealing the citizens' election program. Its purpose is to repeal the Citizens' Election Program.

### **Connecticut HB 5044**

**Summary:** An act making adjustments to state expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Its purpose is to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

### **Connecticut HB 5050**

**Summary:** An act modernizing the symbol of access for persons with disabilities. Its purpose is to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

### **Connecticut HB 5052**

**Summary:** An act strengthening protections for victims of human trafficking. Its purpose is to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

### **Connecticut HB 5054**

**Summary:** An act protecting victims of domestic violence. Its purpose is to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

### **Connecticut HB 5069**

**Summary:** An act concerning a two-generation initiative for families. Its purpose is to study issues concerning workforce development.

### **Connecticut HB 5072**

**Summary:** An act concerning higher education certificate programs. Its purpose is to create consistency among the various sub-baccalaureate certificate programs.

### **Connecticut HB 5109**

**Summary:** An act establishing a tax credit program for employers who offer on-site child day care options for employees. Its purpose is to establish a tax credit program for employers who provide on-site day care.

### **Connecticut HB 5114**

**Summary:** An act imposing a tax on sugary soft drinks. Its purpose is to raise and distribute revenue for childhood obesity measures by imposing a tax on sugary soft drinks.

### **Connecticut HB 5117**

**Summary:** An act expanding the sales tax exemption for medical supplies and devices to include feminine hygiene products. Its purpose is to exempt feminine hygiene products from the sales tax pursuant to the exemption for medical supplies and devices.

### **Connecticut HB 5119**

**Summary:** An act concerning a sales tax exemption for tampons and sanitary pads. Its purpose is to exempt tampons and sanitary pads from the sales tax.

### **Connecticut HB 5121**

**Summary:** An act establishing a tax credit for dependent child care costs. Its purpose is to provide a credit against the personal income tax for employment-related day care costs for dependents under the age of thirteen.

### **Connecticut HB 5122**

**Summary:** An act concerning personal income tax deductions for contributions to family and medical leave benefit accounts. Its purpose is to establish a deduction under the personal income tax for contributions to a family and medical leave benefit account and to allow for the establishment of such accounts by the State Treasurer.

### **Connecticut HB 5123**

**Summary:** An act establishing a deduction under the personal income tax for interest paid on student loans. Its purpose is to establish a deduction under the personal income tax for the amount of student loan interest paid.

### **Connecticut HB 5124**

**Summary:** An act imposing an excise tax on sugar sweetened beverages. Its purpose is to offset state costs associated with treating obesity and to fund active living opportunities in towns by imposing a one cent per ounce excise tax on sugar sweetened beverages.

### **Connecticut HB 5131**

**Summary:** An act establishing a task force on nail salons and nail technicians. Its purpose is to establish a task force on nail salons and nail technicians.

### **Connecticut HB 5134**

**Summary:** An act concerning funds for medical care of inmates. Its purpose is to redirect funds to be used for the medical care of inmates.

### **Connecticut HB 5137**

**Summary:** An act exempting disposable or reusable diapers from the sales tax. Its purpose is to provide an exemption from the sales tax for disposable or reusable diapers.

### **Connecticut HB 5165**

**Summary:** An act establishing a tax credit for businesses that provide paid family and medical leave benefits. Its purpose is to establish a tax credit for businesses that provide paid family and medical leave benefits to employees.

### **Connecticut HB 5173**

**Summary:** An act concerning inmate medical copays. Its purpose is to increase inmate medical copays.

### **Connecticut HB 5204**

**Summary:** An act concerning a halfway house for women in new haven county. Its purpose is to address the needs of female ex-offenders at their point of re-entry in New Haven County.

### **Connecticut HB 5211**

**Summary:** An act concerning certificates of need. Its purpose is to change the requirements for certificates of need.

### **Connecticut HB 5223**

**Summary:** An act exempting baby diapers from the sales tax. Its purpose is to provide an exemption from the sales tax for baby diapers.

### **Connecticut HB 5224**

**Summary:** An act establishing a tax credit for dependent child care costs. Its purpose is to lower the cost of child care by providing a credit against the personal income tax for dependent child care costs.

### **Connecticut HB 5230**

**Summary:** An act requiring health insurance coverage for fertility preservation for insureds diagnosed with cancer. Its purpose is to require health insurance coverage for fertility preservation for insureds diagnosed with cancer.

### **Connecticut HB 5233**

**Summary:** An act concerning health insurance coverage for tomosynthesis for breast cancer screenings. Its purpose is to require health insurance coverage for mammograms provided by breast tomosynthesis.

### **Connecticut HB 5237**

**Summary:** An act concerning fair chance employment. Its purpose is to prevent employers from requiring certain employees or prospective employees to disclose any criminal history until the employer has made a conditional offer of employment to such employee or prospective employee.

### **Connecticut HB 5250**

**Summary:** An act concerning contributions from spouses of institutionalized medicaid recipients. Its purpose is to include nontaxable annuity income as countable income for purposes of calculating a community spouse's contribution toward the long-term care cost of his or her institutionalized spouse.

### **Connecticut HB 5253**

**Summary:** An act concerning improvements to income withholding for child support. Its purpose is to allow for more timely processing of child support orders when the obligor is receiving workers' compensation benefits.

### **Connecticut HB 5254**

**Summary:** An act expanding the commission for child support guidelines. Its purpose is to expand and provide administrative support for the Commission for Child Support Guidelines.

### **Connecticut HB 5256**

**Summary:** An act expediting child support modification orders for incarcerated or institutionalized obligors. Its purpose is to expedite the support order modification process for incarcerated or institutionalized obligors in IV-D child support cases.

### **Connecticut HB 5260**

**Summary:** An act concerning domestic service and overtime pay. Its purpose is to allow an employer and an employee providing domestic service to such employer to agree in writing to exclude meal times and certain periods of free time from the calculation of hours worked.

### **Connecticut HB 5300**

**Summary:** An act concerning children's food and genetic engineering. Its purpose is to require infant formula, baby food and children's foods that are produced partially or entirely with genetically engineered materials to be labelled as such.

### **Connecticut HB 5302**

**Summary:** An act concerning a tax credit for employers offering on-site child care. Its purpose is to establish a tax credit for employers offering on-site child care.

### **Connecticut HB 5368**

**Summary:** An act concerning homemaker services and homemaker companion agencies. Its purpose is to designate a homemaker-companion agency, registry or homemaker-home health agency as the employer of an individual providing certain services to consumers for the purposes of unemployment compensation, wages and workers' compensation and to remove liability for such individual's personal injuries arising out of and in the course of employment from the consumer.

### **Connecticut HB 5370**

**Summary:** An act increasing the minimum fair wage. Its purpose is to raise the minimum wage, incrementally, to fifteen dollars per hour.

### **Connecticut HB 5375**

**Summary:** An act concerning the Connecticut workforce advancement grants for education and women in transition programs. Its purpose is to provide the Connecticut Workforce Advancement Grants for Education and Women in Transition programs with additional resources to assist low-income working parents with college degree attainment.

### **Connecticut HB 5376**

**Summary:** An act concerning affirmative consent. Its purpose is to require the inclusion of affirmative consent as a standard in every institution of higher education's policy or policies regarding sexual assault, stalking and intimate partner violence.

### **Connecticut HB 5377**

**Summary:** An act concerning the prevailing wage. Its purpose is to require business organizations that receive financial assistance from the state for construction projects to abide by the prevailing wage requirements and to raise the threshold amounts at which public works projects shall be subject to the prevailing wage requirements.

### **Connecticut HB 5378**

**Summary:** An act concerning the standard rate of wages. Its purpose is to include security services in the definition of "building, property or equipment service" and to classify housekeeping aides as light cleaners for the purposes of the standard wage and to index the standard rate of wages to the consumer price index.

### **Connecticut HB 5395**

**Summary:** An act establishing a tax credit for businesses that hire recent graduates of institutions of higher education located in Connecticut. Its purpose is to provide incentives for young people to live in urban areas.

### **Connecticut HB 5396**

**Summary:** An act creating incentives for young professionals to live in urban areas. Its purpose is to encourage young professionals to live in urban areas.

### **Connecticut HB 5424**

**Summary:** An act concerning the implementation of the learn here, live here program. Its purpose is to require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to establish the Learn Here, Live Here program, which helps students save toward a down payment on their first home in Connecticut by segregating a portion of their state income tax payments for up to ten years after they graduate.

### **Connecticut HB 5436**

**Summary:** An act implementing recommendations of the task force to study methods for improving the collection of past due child support. Its purpose is to improve upon the collection of past due child support.

### **Connecticut HB 5439**

**Summary:** An act concerning the elimination of asset limits in certain public assistance programs. Its purpose is to eliminate asset limits in certain public assistance programs.

### **Connecticut HB 5455**

**Summary:** An act establishing a task force on patients' medical records. Its purpose is to establish a task force on patients' medical records.

### **Connecticut HB 5457**

**Summary:** An act concerning local health directors. Its purpose is to require the same time commitment to their duties for directors of district departments of health as is required of municipal health directors and to require the Department of Public Health to closely supervise and oversee local health departments.

### **Connecticut HB 5466**

**Summary:** An act concerning criminal history records checks for household members of a family child care home and providing child care for assistance recipients enrolled in approved higher education programs. Its purpose is to require background checks and notice of convictions for any person who is a household member in a family child care home or group child care home.

### **Connecticut HB 5497**

**Summary:** An act requiring a publicly accessible list of legislatively appointed boards, commissions and councils. Its purpose is to require the posting of a publicly accessible list of all boards, commissions or councils that have legislative appointments.

### **Connecticut HB 5529**

**Summary:** An act concerning sexual offender registration laws, residency restrictions for registered sexual offenders. Its purpose is to amend Connecticut's sex offender registry laws to establish a three-tiered system in accordance with the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, and to require that convicted sexual offenders reside at least one thousand feet away from a school or child care center.

### **Connecticut HB 5530**

**Summary:** An act concerning the repayment of child support arrearages. Its purpose is to hold child support obligors accountable for arrearage payments owed to a parent or the state.

### **Connecticut HB 5535**

**Summary:** An act concerning baby changing stations in restaurants. Its purpose is to require restaurants that maintain public restrooms to include baby changing stations in at least one of its men's and at least one of its women's restrooms or, if one or more exists, in at least one of its unisex family restroom.

### **Connecticut HB 5557**

**Summary:** An act requiring the office of early childhood to develop a proposed early childhood

educator compensation schedule. Its purpose is to establish an early childhood educator compensation schedule for early childhood educators that ensures the retention and recruitment of qualified educators, secures a standard of living that meets such educators' needs, and reflects the true costs associated with quality standards for early childhood care and education programs.

#### **Connecticut HB 5591**

**Summary:** An act creating the Connecticut retirement security program. Its purpose is to improve the retirement security of workers in the state who do not have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan or payroll deduction individual retirement account.

#### **Connecticut HB 5597**

**Summary:** An act protecting domestic violence victims seeking restraining orders. Its purpose is to protect domestic violence victims through use of the risk warrant process set forth in section 29-38c of the general statutes.

#### **Connecticut HB 5605**

**Summary:** An act concerning the termination of parental rights. Its purpose is to permit the termination of parental rights in cases involving clear and convincing evidence that a parent has committed a sexual assault resulting in the conception of a child.

#### **Connecticut HB 5621**

**Summary:** An act concerning human trafficking. Its purpose is to revise the duties and composition of the trafficking in persons council; require state's attorneys and municipal chiefs of police to provide data and information concerning human trafficking prosecutions and investigations to the General Assembly; require that the Commissioner of Children and Families and the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection develop a training program to raise awareness of incidents of human trafficking, institute reforms that are designed to prevent human trafficking at hotels, motels and similar lodgings; raise the age for a person to be convicted as a prostitute; eliminate the requirement that a person knew the victim was under eighteen years of age or was a victim of coercion or human trafficking in order to be convicted of a class C felony for patronizing a prostitute; create mandatory fines for patronizing a prostitute and require such fines be used to fund investigations of prostitution and human trafficking; raise the age of a minor for purposes of enticing a minor to engage in prostitution; expand requirement for display of notice concerning services available to victims of human trafficking; and amend forfeiture requirements related to prostitution.

#### **Connecticut HB 5623**

**Summary:** An act concerning violence against women, access to marshals, and victims of human trafficking. Its purpose is to increase protections for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault.

#### **Connecticut HB 5626**

**Summary:** An act concerning the earned income tax credit. Its purpose is to require the Department of Revenue Services to study the income limits applicable to the earned income tax credit and personal income tax refund distribution for recipients of such credit.

#### **Connecticut HB 5628**

**Summary:** An act concerning the conversion of college savings accounts to able accounts. Its purpose is to allow for the roll-over of funds from a college savings account into an ABLE account.

### **Connecticut HB 5631**

**Summary:** An act concerning the recommendations of the Connecticut sentencing commission with respect to victim notification. Its purpose is to enact the recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission concerning victim notification.

### **Connecticut HB 5642**

**Summary:** An act concerning the recommendations of the juvenile justice policy and oversight committee. Its purpose is to implement the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee to reduce incarceration rates of children, to increase diversion of children from the juvenile justice system, to reduce education barriers faced by children in or exiting the juvenile justice system, to reduce recidivism, to address mental and behavioral health issues of children and to increase data sharing in a secure manner that preserves confidentiality.

### **Connecticut SB 4**

**Summary:** An act establishing a deduction from the personal income tax for unpaid family caregivers. Its purpose is to provide personal income tax relief to family caregivers for unpaid services provided in order to allow the elderly to remain at home.

### **Connecticut SB 9**

**Summary:** An act concerning transparency in public spending. Its purpose is to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

### **Connecticut SB 10**

**Summary:** An act increasing access to child care for children who are homeless. Its purpose is to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

### **Connecticut SB 17**

**Summary:** An act implementing the governor's budget recommendations for human services. Its purpose is to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

### **Connecticut SB 18**

**Summary:** An act concerning a second chance society. Its purpose is to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

### **Connecticut SB 20**

**Summary:** An act concerning carrying a firearm while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol. Its purpose is to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

### **Connecticut SB 21**

**Summary:** An act concerning the military department's nondiscrimination laws. Its purpose is to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

### **Connecticut SB 23**

**Summary:** An act concerning Connecticut's manufacturing and technology workforce. Its purpose is to require a study of issues concerning Connecticut's manufacturing and technology workforce.

### **Connecticut SB 32**

**Summary:** An act concerning the commission on health equity. Its purpose is to allow the

Commission on Health Equity to appoint an executive director and place the commission within the Insurance Department for administrative purposes.

### **Connecticut SB 39**

**Summary:** An act concerning the minimum fair wage and employees who customarily and regularly receive gratuities. Its purpose is to improve the financial standing of certain individuals who customarily and regularly receive gratuities by eliminating the tip credit used in the calculation of the minimum fair wage.

### **Connecticut SB 40**

**Summary:** An act concerning employer inquiries about an employee's or prospective employee's credit history. Its purpose is to restrict the circumstances under which an employer may require an employee or job applicant to consent to a credit report by removing a provision allowing employers to require a credit report from an employee or job applicant who has access to nonfinancial assets valued at two thousand five dollars or more.

### **Connecticut SB 42**

**Summary:** An act concerning the city of bridgeport and annual municipal employees' retirement system amortization contribution payments. Its purpose is to study employee wages in the state.

### **Connecticut SB 65**

**Summary:** An act repealing the earned income tax credit. Its purpose is to repeal the earned income tax credit.

### **Connecticut SB 66**

**Summary:** An act extending paid sick leave to school paraprofessionals. Its purpose is to include school paraprofessionals in the enumerated list of employees who are eligible for paid sick leave.

### **Connecticut SB 84**

**Summary:** An act concerning work incentives for persons receiving temporary family assistance. Its purpose is to provide incentives for temporary family assistance recipients to become employed.

### **Connecticut SB 107**

**Summary:** An act concerning the treatment of the cash value of life insurance policies when evaluating medicaid eligibility. Its purpose is to remove a requirement that an institutionalized individual must use the proceeds from his or her life insurance policy valued at less than ten thousand dollars toward the cost of his or her care in order to qualify such individual for Medicaid.

### **Connecticut SB 109**

**Summary:** An act renaming the bureau of child support enforcement to the office of child support services. Its purpose is to change the name of the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement within the Department of Social Services to the Office of Child Support Services to characterize more accurately and completely the mission of the IV-D agency for clients and the public.

### **Connecticut SB 112**

**Summary:** An act providing child care for assistance recipients enrolled in approved higher education programs. Its purpose is to promote employability of persons who are receiving temporary family assistance by providing child care subsidies for those enrolled in an approved higher education program.

### **Connecticut SB 118**

**Summary:** An act concerning the collection of delinquent taxes and child support from lottery winnings. Its purpose is to reduce the threshold amount to collect lottery winnings for child support and delinquent taxes.

### **Connecticut SB 155**

**Summary:** An act concerning the allocation of low income housing tax credits. Its purpose is to allocate affordable housing tax credits.

### **Connecticut SB 156**

**Summary:** An act concerning the data collection and analysis of affordable housing. Its purpose is to implement regulations to streamline the data collection obligations of the Department of Housing.

### **Connecticut SB 158**

**Summary:** An act concerning cost-sharing for mammograms and breast ultrasounds. Its purpose is to prohibit certain health insurance policies providing coverage of the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (10), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 of the general statutes delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued in this state from imposing a copayment or deductible or annual or lifetime limits on mammograms and breast ultrasounds.

### **Connecticut SB 162**

**Summary:** An act concerning a community spouse's allowable assets. Its purpose is to help spouses of nursing home residents to live independently longer in the community.

### **Connecticut SB 205**

**Summary:** An act concerning women veterans. Its purpose is to continue building awareness of women veterans' issues and address their unique needs by expanding opportunities for outreach and support by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

### **Connecticut SB 216**

**Summary:** An act expanding the sales tax exemption to include feminine hygiene products and disposable or reusable diapers. Its purpose is to provide an exemption from the sales tax for feminine hygiene products and disposable and reusable diapers.

### **Connecticut SB 218**

**Summary:** An act concerning the department of public health's recommendations for revisions to the statutes regarding human immunodeficiency virus. Its purpose is to implement the Department of Public Health's recommendations for revisions to the statutes regarding human immunodeficiency virus.

### **Connecticut SB 221**

**Summary:** An act concerning paid family and medical leave. Its purpose is to implement a system of paid family and medical leave in the state.

### **Connecticut SB 262**

**Summary:** An act concerning the Connecticut family and medical leave act and active duty military service. Its purpose is to provide under the Connecticut Family and Medical Leave Act a leave right related to military service provided under with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

### Connecticut SB 269

**Summary:** An act requiring the secretary of the office of policy and management to study the impact of implementing a forty-hour work week for state employees. Its purpose is to require the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to study the impact of requiring all state employees to work a forty-hour work week.

### Connecticut SB 271

**Summary:** An act concerning a request for qualifications for the provision of health care services and behavioral health care services to inmates of the department of correction. Its purpose is to require the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to issue a request for qualifications for the provision of health care services and behavioral health care services to inmates of the Department of Correction and report the results of such request to the General Assembly.

### Connecticut SB 275

**Summary:** An act concerning work incentives for persons who receive temporary family assistance. Its purpose is to provide incentives for temporary family assistance beneficiaries to find employment.

### Connecticut SB 293

**Summary:** An act concerning recommendations and membership of the school nurse advisory council. Its purpose is to implement the recommendations of the School Nurse Advisory Council by changing the council's membership requirements, requiring school nurses to complete an orientation program and requiring school districts to complete the annual health services program information survey.

### Connecticut SB 309

**Summary:** An act establishing a task force to study value-based pricing of prescription drugs. Its purpose is to establish a task force to study value-based pricing of prescription drugs.

### Connecticut SB 314

**Summary:** An act concerning a study of the benefits provided pursuant to the temporary family assistance program. Its purpose is to allow certain families who earn not more than one hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level to receive temporary family assistance, to allow for a one-time benefit to be paid to individuals who have exhausted temporary family assistance but have subsequently secured employment, and to allow individuals receiving unemployment benefits to continue to receive a portion of such benefits upon accepting employment at a rate lower than their unemployment benefit rate.

### Connecticut SB 324

**Summary:** An act concerning a temporary holding period for certain family violence arrestees. Its purpose is to allow for a temporary holding period for certain persons arrested for a family violence crime.

### Connecticut SB 355

**Summary:** An act concerning local health departments and health districts. Its purpose is to require an audit, at least once every three years, of local health departments and districts.

### Connecticut SB 363

**Summary:** An act concerning revisions to various statutes concerning the criminal justice system.

Its purpose is to (1) amend the Nuisance Abatement and Quality of Life Act; (2) provide for the use of electronic signatures in certain reports; (3) ensure that all law enforcement professionals who work for the state or a municipality are covered for purposes of indemnification; (4) make restitution orders in criminal cases enforceable for the same duration as in civil matters; (5) protect victims in cases where the defendant is allowed to benefit from a diversionary program that results in the underlying case being dismissed or not prosecuted; (6) provide for criminal lockout protection to tenants of nonresidential properties; (7) provide an enhanced penalty for victims of larceny who have been deemed incapable by the probate court; and (8) add victims of sexual assault in a spousal or cohabitating relationship to statutes concerning the privacy of such victims.

#### **Connecticut SB 370**

**Summary:** An act concerning health care provider lists and authorizing pregnancy as a qualifying event for special enrollment periods. Its purpose is to (1) require health insurers and other entities that contract with health care providers for the purposes of providing covered health care services to enrollees under a health insurance policy or medical benefits plan to maintain an accurate and current list of in-network health care providers and facilities for each such policy, plan or network, and (2) permit pregnant individuals to enroll in a health insurance policy or plan at any time after the pregnancy has been certified by a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse.

#### **Connecticut SB 377**

**Summary:** An act concerning the school health curriculum and cancer awareness. Its purpose is to include instruction in the performance of self-examinations for breast cancer and testicular cancer in the school health curriculum.

#### **Connecticut SB 378**

**Summary:** An act concerning the recommendations of the high school graduation requirements task force. Its purpose is to make changes to the high school graduation requirements, to establish the High School Graduation Requirements Council, and to require the State Board of Education to develop recommendations for a new set of high school graduation requirements.

#### **Connecticut SB 381**

**Summary:** An act establishing a task force to study school climate. Its purpose is to establish a task force to review, streamline and align state policies relating to school climate, bullying, school safety and social-emotional learning.

#### **Connecticut SB 390**

**Summary:** An act concerning a two-generation initiative. Its purpose is to expand an interagency working group overseeing a two-generation work and academic success pilot program and clarify reporting requirements and other provisions of the program.

#### **Connecticut SB 393**

**Summary:** An act concerning domestic workers. Its purpose is to provide certain legal protections and benefits to individuals performing domestic work in or about a private dwelling.

#### **Connecticut SB 426**

**Summary:** An act creating a task force to improve access to legal counsel in civil matters. Its purpose is to create a task force that will examine and make recommendations on different mechanisms to increase legal representation in civil proceedings in the state of Connecticut.

### **Connecticut SB 428**

**Summary:** An act concerning funding of legal services for the poor. Its purpose is to increase funding for the purpose of funding the delivery of legal services to the poor.

### **Connecticut SB 429**

**Summary:** An act concerning service of restraining orders. Its purpose is to provide an applicant for a restraining order with the option of selecting either a police officer or a proper officer to serve such order.

### **Connecticut SB 430**

**Summary:** An act concerning employment following an arrest, criminal charge or conviction and equal employment opportunity commission guidance. Its purpose is to require employers to adhere to guidance issued by the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

### **Connecticut SB 430**

**Summary:** An act concerning employment following an arrest, criminal charge or conviction and equal employment opportunity commission guidance. Its purpose is to require employers to adhere to guidance issued by the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

### **Connecticut SB 442**

**Summary:** An act concerning a victim's right to be reasonably protected from a person accused of committing a crime. Its purpose is to afford greater protections to crime victims.

### **Connecticut SB 443**

**Summary:** An act concerning notification to victim support groups of the names of victims of domestic violence. Its purpose is to lift the confidentiality afforded to victims of domestic violence for the limited purpose of allowing municipal police departments to provide the names of such victims to victim support groups.

### **Connecticut SB 444**

**Summary:** An act concerning penalties for family violence crimes that a child witnesses and establishing a working group concerning information and communications related to victims of family violence. Its purpose is to increase penalties for individuals who commit acts of family violence in the presence of a minor child and to establish a working group to evaluate and make recommendations for improved methods for sharing information while maintaining appropriate victim confidentiality.

### **Connecticut SB 447**

**Summary:** An act establishing a tax credit for businesses that hire promise zone residents or are located in a promise zone. Its purpose is to allow a credit against the corporation income tax for each resident of a federally designated promise zone hired and for any business that acquires or develops a facility in such zone on or after January 1, 2016.