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**Testimony of  
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women  
Before the  
Human Services Committee  
March 13, 2012**

**RE: H.B. 5450, AA Establishing a Basic Health Program**

Senators Musto and Markley, Representatives Tercyak and Gibbons, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) regarding the above referenced bill.

H.B. 5040 would establish State Basic Health Program (SBHP) to provide an affordable health care program for people with incomes between 133% and 200% of the federal poverty level. PCSW supports passage of this concept because it has the potential to provide health insurance to 135,000 uninsured women in this State.

*CT Specific Information*

- In 2010, 11% of Connecticut's population (385,000) were uninsured<sup>1</sup>
- Of the uninsured, 135,000 were adult women aged 19-64.

Establishing an SBHP would provide health insurance coverage to a growing number of Connecticut low- and moderate-income families who do not have access to affordable employer-sponsored coverage, and are not eligible for Medicaid because their incomes are too high.

We look forward to working with you to address this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation <[www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org)>.