

Connecticut General Assembly



# News Release

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## Gilchrest Named PCSW Legislative Director

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HARTFORD — Jillian Gilchrest, a prominent proponent of women’s rights, has been named the new Legislative Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW). Gilchrest comes to the post from the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS), where she served as Director of Policy and Communication. Gilchrest, 32, of West Hartford, was appointed after a two-month, extensive search.

“Jillian brings to the agency a wealth of experience in advocating for gender equality, and her knowledge of the legislative process is deep,” said PCSW Executive Director Carolyn Treiss. “This is an exciting and challenging time to be working for women’s rights, and Jillian has the know-how, the energy and the expertise needed to meet the challenge and advance our priorities.”

At the PCSW, which is a 41-year-old public policy arm of the Connecticut General Assembly, Gilchrest will work with staff to identify and formulate the agency’s legislative agenda. As the commission’s main liaison with members of the General Assembly, she will be responsible for researching and analyzing pending legislation on public policy issues that affect women, such as health care, pay equity, economic development, civil rights, educational equity, sexual harassment and assault, and human trafficking. She’ll also represent the PCSW on several statutorily mandated commissions.

“I’ve worked to address a number of social issues throughout my career,” said Gilchrest. “Whether it be reproductive health, family economic security, early care and education, or sexual violence, women remain at a disadvantage. I feel honored to join the PCSW and to work with the Connecticut General Assembly in pursuit of equality for all women in our state.”

In addition to her role at CONNSACS, Gilchrest has served as Policy Director for the Connecticut Association of Human Services, served as Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut, and was clerk to the General Assembly’s Appropriations Committee. She also served on the West Hartford Board of Education, and was awarded CWEALF’s *40 Women for the Next 40 Years* honor. Gilchrest begins March 2.

*About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women 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 General Assembly, the agency monitors, critiques and recommends changes to legislation in order to inform public policy, and assesses programs and practices in all 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.*