

Connecticut General Assembly



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

Official Statement

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FROM: Carolyn Treiss, executive director, PCSW

DATE: March 12, 2015

RE: IWPR Report on 50 States: Women's Employment and Earnings

Based on a composite index of criteria, Connecticut earns a "B" (or 5th overall) for women's employment and earnings. Highlights of the data show that Connecticut ranks:

- 5th among all 50 states for women's median annual earnings (\$46,000).
- 6th in percent of employed women in managerial or professional occupations (43.9%).
- 14th in percent of women in the labor force (62.6%).
- However, we still have a wage gap (76.7 cents per male dollar) that is slightly wider than the national average (approximately 78 cents), putting Connecticut's rank at 38th.
- At the current rate, the gender-based wage gap in Connecticut will not close until the year 2061.

"IWPR has done a thorough job of looking at women's employment and earnings in all 50 states," said Carolyn Treiss, executive director of the General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW). "And while only three states (Maryland, Massachusetts and New Jersey, along with the District of Columbia) outrank us, we are not resting on our laurels; clearly, there is room for improvement.

"Significantly, here in Connecticut we are already doing three of the four things IWPR recommends as policies that will strengthen the status of women: we are tackling pay secrecy, low wages and low tipped minimum wage. The fourth – tackling the undervaluation of women's work – definitely needs to be addressed."

Carolyn Treiss is a member of the Status of Women in the States National Advisory Committee.