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**Testimony of
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Before the
Human Services Committee
March 1, 2011**

RE: S.B. 1042, AAC a Pilot Project Under the Jobs First Employment Services 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) on the above referenced bill.

S.B. 1042 would establish a pilot program, under the Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) program, to provide intensive case management and support services to 100 TFA recipients. If passed, this pilot could benefit almost 8,500 residents, including 6,985 women.¹

CT Specific Data²

- 8,456 people participate in JFES.
- 6,985 or 83% of JFES participants are female.

The JFES program focuses heavily on job search activities; however attention must also focus on the educational or skill deficiencies that many TFA recipients in the program present, such as limited education, lack of child care, housing or transportation. Eighty-Eight percent of JFES participants report having one or more barriers to employment:³

Report 1 barrier - 18.5%
Report 2 barriers – 33.6%
Report 3 barriers – 19.7%
Report 4 or more barriers – 16%

¹ CT Department of Labor. Jobs First Employment Services At-A-Squint, January 2011.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

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Providing intensive case management could assist JFES participants to get beyond these employment barriers. We look forward to working with you to address these important issues. Thank you for your consideration.