

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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CONTACT: Christine Palm, Communications Director at 860/240-8449; or 860/836-2145

FROM: Teresa Younger, executive director

DATE: Dec. 18, 2103

RE: MergerWatch/ACLU Report on Hospital Mergers

We fully understand that many hospitals, including several here in Connecticut, are looking to these mergers and acquisitions as a way to remain economically viable. However, the resulting enforcement of religious directives unfairly burdens women and communities by curtailing vital health services. So, as the State agency mandated to ensure women's health and safety, we will remain vigilant in the face of this changing landscape. Economic development should not come at the cost of women's health and safety, and so we look forward to continuing to work with MergerWatch in monitoring hospital mergers to assess the unintended consequences on women and communities.

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.