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WHAT: NEWS CONFERENCE urging Senate passage of a bill granting collective bargaining rights to workers in the child care and home healthcare fields, 90% of whom are women.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 25th, 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Room 1-A, Legislative Office Building, Hartford

WHO: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) will be joined by:
Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman
State Senator Edith Prague
State Senator Beth Bye
Additional women state legislators

BACKGROUND: Personal care services are predicted to comprise the fastest growing job sector in Connecticut through 2018, and yet this field – which is overwhelmingly female – currently pays the second-lowest wage. As a bill granting collective bargaining rights to home and child care workers moves to the Connecticut State Senate after passing the House late last week, the PCSW, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and various women legislators say its passage is essential to the economic equity of this workforce.

QUOTE: “This measure is vital to the economic security of a significant, but disenfranchised, sector of our workforce,” said PCSW Executive Director Teresa C. Younger. “Collective bargaining will give this invisible and largely ignored workforce a voice. Through better opportunity and representation, these workers, 90 percent of whom are women, can better advocate for themselves, as well as the children and clients they care for.”

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.