

Connecticut General Assembly



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

Official Statement

18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106 • 860/240-8300 • pcsw@cga.ct.gov • www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/

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

FROM: Teresa Younger, Executive Director

DATE: Jan. 23, 2013

RE: Gov. Dannel Malloy's Pay Equity Initiative

"We applaud the Governor for showing solid leadership on this critical issue. The wage gap has closed by less than one cent per year since 1963, when the Equal Pay Act was passed. That rate is abysmally slow and contributes to the erosion of women's financial security, both in the present and over a woman's lifespan.

"All enlightened public policy flows from solid data, and so the Governor is justified in calling for ways to study the factors contributing to the gender wage gap. He is sending the right message to the women of Connecticut, who make up 51 percent of the population and nearly half the workforce. Equally important, through this directive he's helping give private industry the tools to create a more equitable work environment, which is the backbone of fairness for all of society.

"In addition, he's reinforcing the message President Obama is sending -- from signing the Lilly Ledbetter Act upon first taking office to calls for equity in his inauguration speech this week. This, too, sends a clear message to Congress, which once again has failed to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

"What is especially exciting is that this directive will be coming out of two agencies not traditionally led by women -- DECD and Labor -- and so we congratulate Gov. Malloy for using the authority of State agencies to raise awareness of and explore an issue that, ultimately, affects all Connecticut's citizens."

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.