

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: Carolyn Treiss, executive director

DATE: May 27, 2015

RE: Pay Secrecy bill

“Pay secrecy is a contributing factor to wage inequity, as we learned from Lilly Ledbetter’s experience. In passing the Governor’s bill, the House of Representatives last night affirmed that members of the Connecticut legislature – on both sides of the aisle – recognize that if people are not free to discuss their wages, they are prevented from discovering workplace inequities. This bill puts no pressure on businesses, beyond allowing employees to voluntarily disclose their wages to one another, without fear of retribution.

“We applaud the House, as well as Gov. Malloy, who first took this critical step in addressing this particular form of gender discrimination, which severely erodes women’s economic security. As it moves on to the Senate, we urge lawmakers to pass this legislation, safe in the knowledge that if businesses treat women fairly, they have nothing to fear from employees who simply want to ascertain where they stand in relation to their peers.”

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.