

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: PCSW Events & Special Projects Director Michelle Noehren and
CWEALF Legal & Public Policy Director Catherine Bailey, co-chairs,
The Connecticut Campaign for Paid Family Leave

DATE: Jan. 15, 2015

RE: President Obama's Call for Paid Family and Medical Leave

"The Connecticut Campaign for Paid Family Leave, co-chaired by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF), applauds President Obama for his recent advocacy of paid family and medical leave. Working people – of any economic strata, gender or career field, should never have to choose between work and family. And yet too often, family caregivers are forced to take extended, unpaid leave to care for their families or themselves, often to the long-term detriment of their economic status.

"That's why the Campaign supports an employee-funded system available to all workers, and is working with legislators to introduce a Paid Family and Medical Leave bill this session.

"Meanwhile, the President has shown the nation that paid family and medical leave is a sensible, compassionate way to honor a worker's devotion to both family and his or her job. Here in Connecticut, we are especially proud of the fact that in 2011 our Legislature passed the nation's first paid sick days legislation. And, several decades ago, Connecticut created the foundation for the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) which guarantees job security for a person taking unpaid leave. Now, with the movement toward *paid* leave, we can expand upon FMLA and create greater economic security for women and their families."

Michelle Noehren can be reached at: 860-240-0016

Catherine Bailey can be reached at: 860-247-6090, ext. 106

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.

