

Connecticut General Assembly



**PCSW**

**Permanent Commission on the Status of Women**

*The State's leading force for women's equality*

# News Release

18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106 • 860/240-8300 • [pcsw@cga.ct.gov](mailto:pcsw@cga.ct.gov) • [www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/](http://www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/)

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

## **PCSW Executive Director to Lead Ms. Foundation for Women**

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HARTFORD – Teresa C. Younger, who for seven years has led the Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), is leaving the agency to become President and CEO of the Ms. Foundation for Women.

Under Younger's tutelage, the PCSW increased its role as the State's leading force for women's equality, working effectively on a wide range of initiatives, including: promotion of women to leadership positions, reproductive health, marriage equality, paid sick leave, the minimum wage, childcare, hospital mergers, women's retirement security, family medical leave insurance, penalties against human traffickers, consent laws in cases of sexual assault, equal pay for equal work, and other issues coming within the PCSW's mandate. Formed the same year as the Ms. Foundation, the PCSW is mandated by state statute to work on "all matters concerning women," and especially those in the areas of economic security, health and safety, and the elimination of gender discrimination.

The New York-based Ms. Foundation for Women champions women's progressive causes and works toward advancing solutions that empower women, especially those in marginalized communities. For 40 years, the Ms. Foundation has secured women's rights and freedoms with a special commitment to building the power of low-income, immigrant and women of color. The Foundation invests funds, time, expertise and training in nearly 100 organizations focused on women's health and reproductive justice, economic security and safety.

"At this time of both feminist success and backlash against it, Teresa Younger is the perfect person to continue the grassroots strength of the Ms. Foundation, and build it into policy and protection against backlash," said noted feminist Gloria Steinem, who helped launch the Foundation. "She knows how to make the needs of the majority of women into guiding principles of action."

"I'm saddened to be leaving an agency, staff and coalition partners I respect deeply for the amazing work they do," Younger said. "But I am very excited to be able to work on a national level on many of the women's issues PCSW works on statewide. And I leave the agency secure

in the knowledge that not only have we weathered budgetary storms and cutbacks, we have become, truly, the state's umbrella agency for all matters concerning women.”

Younger also directed the agency to conduct or commission several critical reports that are widely used by advocates, economists and policy-makers, including *The Basic Economic Security Tables (BEST)*, *Where Connecticut Stands: Overlooked and Undercounted*, *The Elder Economic Security Index (EESI)*, and *Selected Highlights of Women's History (United States and Connecticut, 1773-2013)*.

“I've worked with Teresa for many years—she is a tremendous advocate and leader, providing a strong and sure voice for equality, fairness, and justice for women in Connecticut,” said Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. “The Ms. Foundation—and women across the nation—will certainly benefit from her broad expertise, her diligence, and her tirelessness. We wish her the very best in this extraordinary opportunity and thank her for her years of service and dedication to Connecticut.”

Toni Moran, Commission chair, said: “We wish Teresa well as she moves into this exciting new role. Of course she will be sorely missed, but the agency – both in terms of a committed, diverse board of commissioners and a professional, expert staff – is the strongest it's been in its 40-year history, and I am quite sure we'll continue to grow as the leading voice for Connecticut women.”

Younger will begin at the Ms. Foundation on June 16.

*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.*