

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 to Participate in Unite Women Connecticut Rally on Saturday, April 28**

### **For Immediate Release April 26, 2012**

HARTFORD -- This Saturday, April 28, Hartford will join more than 50 cities across the country in holding a rally in support of women's rights. The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), which is mandated to work for women's economic security, health and safety, and to end gender discrimination, will be among the sponsoring groups.

"We're pleased to take part in this peaceful, non-partisan show of support for women's rights," said PCSW Executive Director Teresa Younger. "It's simply outrageous that comprehensive women's healthcare has become fodder in highly charged political and religious debates, and we are holding this rally to keep the focus where it belongs – on what is best for women and their families. We in Connecticut are fortunate to benefit from a history of generally enlightened public policy, but this is not the case in other states. We urge the public to become more informed on the legislative assaults on women's rights currently taking place across the country, and we urge policy-makers to embrace the idea that women should have affordable access to the full spectrum of healthcare, should have equal pay, should not pay more for medical insurance, and should reach political parity in elected office."

Younger will join other speakers, including: Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman; U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal; Connecticut's First Lady, Cathy Malloy; Pat Russo, The Women's Campaign School at Yale University; Gretchen Raffa, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England; Candida Flores, Family Life Education, Inc.; Woody Bliss, Republican Majority for Choice; Julie Belaga, former EPA Dir. for Pres. George H.W. Bush; Yanil Teron, Center for Latino Progress; Laura Cordes, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services; Lt. Col. Michael Zacchea, USMC; the Rev. Debra Haffner, the Religious Institute; and Rally Emcee: Hartford Courant columnist Susan Campbell.

*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.*