

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: Teresa C. Younger, Executive Director

DATE: May 31, 2013

RE: sHB 6553 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE.

“The PCSW applauds the General Assembly for passing sHB 6553. In creating a task force to study the possibility of Family Medical Leave Insurance, the legislators are now able to convene a multitude of stakeholders, including business, public policy, and family advocates, to ask the right questions about whether Connecticut should create an employee-sponsored medical leave insurance plan. All good public policy flows from solid data, and such a task force will be able to ask the right questions early on to get a sense of the scope of the issue.

“Unpaid prolonged leaves, whether to care for oneself or a family member, can curtail a person’s financial security and asset-building, so it’s an important issue to tackle. Once again, Connecticut has become a leader in enlightened public policy: by authorizing a task force to study FMLI, we can see if it makes sense for workers to partially fund their leave through some type of insurance policy.”

N.B. This week, the PCSW signed on to a letter in support of \$5 million in federal funding through the U.S. Dept. of Labor (being considered for FY 2014). This fund, if created, would provide grants to states that are considering enacting self-sustaining paid leave programs.

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.