

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: April 14, 2015

RE: Pay Equity Day

“It is an outrage that 52 years after the Fair Pay Act of 1963, wage discrimination is still eroding millions of women’s economic security. Our recent study with the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) shows that closing the gender wage gap would cut the poverty rate for working women in half. The wage gap isn’t just a drain on women and their families; according to IWPR’s latest research, the entire U.S. economy would produce \$447.6 billion in additional income, which is nearly 3% of our country’s GDP in 2012. So if the social injustice of pay inequity is not enough to move some people to action, we’d ask them to evaluate pay *equity* as the strong economic driver it could be.”

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.