

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: Teresa C. Younger, PCSW Executive Director

DATE: Feb. 7, 2012

RE: Affordable Healthcare Act and Birth Control Coverage

“It’s outrageous that comprehensive women’s healthcare has become fodder in highly charged political and religious debates. Employers have an obligation to offer women the best preventive healthcare options possible. Offering workers a *choice* to do something is not the same as *forcing* them to do it; birth control is an option, not a directive.

“No one has the right to take away a woman’s freedom to make an informed, ethical and legal decision concerning her own body. There is no such debate about – or effort to control – any aspect of a man’s healthcare, including his behavioral choice to take Viagra or get his prostate screened. Birth control, like mammograms, cervical cancer screenings and medicines for chronic illness, is one aspect of the complete range of women’s healthcare options and should be seen as such.

“We support President Obama’s position on this issue, and urge policy-makers to reject the notion being promulgated by some people that women who work at religiously affiliated hospitals and universities can easily look elsewhere for work. In this poor economy, it’s an absurdly out-of-touch stance, especially at a time when more and more women are becoming the major breadwinners in their families.”

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.