

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, PCSW

DATE: July 22, 2015

RE: Domestic Workers' Rights (P.A. 15-249)

“The field of domestic work is a largely female-dominated one, and so we are very pleased to note the signing into law of Public Act 15-249, which is an important first step in recognizing the full rights of approximately 40,000 Connecticut workers. Domestic workers have historically received wages well below the poverty line and are excluded from some of the most fundamental labor protections other workers in Connecticut enjoy. This is especially unfair, given that, due to the invisible nature of this workforce, they are among the most vulnerable. This Act recognizes the special circumstances under which they work, and gives them the same recourse other workers have in the face of possible discrimination, sexual harassment, or exploitation.”

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.