

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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FROM: Carolyn Treiss, Executive Director, PCSW

DATE: July 22, 2015

RE: Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Backlog

“We applaud the Governor for taking a strong stand on how to deal with Connecticut’s backlog of sexual assault evidence collection kits. While P.A. 15-207 (formerly H.B. 6498) will help prevent such a kit backlog from occurring in the future, we still have about 1,000 kits languishing on evidence room shelves. Each one of these may contain information that could help bring justice for victims of sexual assaults, and so it’s great news that the State will be addressing the current backlog.

“In addition, Gov. Malloy’s creation of a work group will help figure out what factors led to such a backlog in the first place, and will help expedite the handling of backlogged kits in an efficient way while acting with the utmost sensitivity toward the people affected. Once again, Connecticut’s leadership, along with the highly effective advocacy group CONNSACS, is leading the way in protecting women’s rights.”

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.