



Media Advisory

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For immediate Release 8-25-11

PCSW Marks Women's Equality Day with Voter Registration Drive

Young Women's Leadership Program Recognizes 91 years of Voting Rights for Women

HARTFORD -- Friday is Women's Equality Day, which marks the anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. In recognition of 91 years of voting rights for women, the Young Women's Leadership Program (YWLP) will hold a voter registration drive this Friday, Aug. 26, on the campus of Manchester Community College.

The YWLP, a program of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), empowers women ages 18-35 to emerge as leaders in government, business and community. Last year, the YWLP's voter registration drive brought in more than 100 previously unregistered adults.

"Voting is not only a right but a civic duty, and I applaud these young women for volunteering their time and energy to encourage their peers on college campuses to register to vote," said Secretary of the State Denise Merrill. "It certainly fulfills one of PCSW's vital roles as a group that encourages the public to engage in state government. Voting is the surest way to ensure that our voices are heard at the Capitol."

YWLP volunteers will be at MCC from 12 to 4 p.m. on Friday to hand out official voter registration cards and to answer questions.

For more information, call Michelle Noehren at 860/240-0016.

About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a 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.