



News Release

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Second Annual Women's Policy Day is Tuesday, November 27th

Public invited 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT

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HARTFORD – The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) is joining with five noted women's advocacy organizations to present an opportunity for the public to learn about the legislative process and to become engaged in public policy. Based on the success of last year's Women's Policy Day, the PCSW jointly created this annual event at which participants gain a better understanding of how decisions are made at the Capitol and learn the tools needed to become leaders on policy changes that affect women.

Both Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and Secretary of the State Denise Merrill will stop by to greet participants in support of the efforts of the PCSW and its coalition partners.

The day will include opportunities for participants to:

- Find out what women need to know about the impact of the federal Affordable Care Act on women's health. Featuring Connecticut Healthcare Advocate Victoria Veltri.
- Hear about women's policy from a panel of female lawmakers serving in the Connecticut General Assembly.
- Learn the basics of how the General Assembly works and join an interactive session on the public hearing process, including tips for how to testify on a bill.

The PCSW, a policy arm of the Legislative Branch, is working with the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF), the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS), the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), the Junior League of Hartford, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut.

"This recent election proved women are insisting that their voices be heard on both state and national levels," said PCSW Executive Director Teresa C. Younger. "We're inviting women from throughout the state to join with advocates working in all aspects of women's rights to find the most effective and informed ways to raise those voices."

Younger is joined by others in the women's community in stressing the day's importance.

“Women’s Policy Day provides the tools essential for navigating the Connecticut General Assembly and will leave attendees strategically positioned to be effective change leaders,” said Karen Jarmoc, Executive Director, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. “Getting more women involved in the process is key to strengthening our impact on the critical policy issues impacting women.”

And Nancy Kalyan, president of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, said, “over the past 100 years, the GFWC has been a leading women’s non-profit service organization dedicated to the education of social issues, and with an emphasis on the development of governmental rights for women. This policy day fits perfectly with that mission.”

Women’s Policy Day will be held Tuesday, Nov. 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Legislative Office Building, Hartford. The day’s schedule is:

8:30-9:00 Registration/Coffee
9:00-9:15 Welcome & Introductions
9:15-10:00 Vicki Veltri, Healthcare Advocate re: Affordable Care Act
10:00-11:00 General Assembly 101
11:00-11:30 Break
11:30-12:10 Legislator Panel
12:10-12:50 Mock Public Hearing
12:50-1:00 Closing Remarks

The PCSW and its partners are offering this event as part of its mandate to promote women in leadership and to work to eliminate gender discrimination. Some facts about the disparities of women and leadership:

- Women make up 51% of Connecticut’s population, but hold only 29% of the seats in the CT General Assembly.
- Women comprise 50% of Connecticut’s Constitutional officers.
- As of November 2011, women were the top official in 34.5% of select top government appointments.
- In 2009, women comprised only 25% of municipal governing bodies and made up 38.5% of State boards and commissions.
- Women of color are under-represented on Connecticut Boards and Commissions. In 2009, only 4.1% of appointees were African American women and only 1.4% of appointees were Latinas.



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.