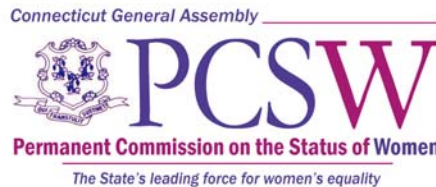


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**Testimony of  
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women  
Before the  
Human Services Committee  
Tuesday, March 17, 2009**

**Re:**

**S.B. 1112, AA Maximizing the Federal Stimulus Funding**

**S.B. 1113, AAC Medicaid**

Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. 1112, AA Maximizing the Federal Stimulus Funding and S.B. 1113, AAC Medicaid.

**S.B. 1112, AA Maximizing the Federal Stimulus Funding**

PCSW supports passage of S.B. 112, which would convene a committee to indentify and maximize federal stimulus funding related to human services. We would encourage that any plan to maximize federal stimulus funding adhere to the following principles:

1. Make investments that stabilize the economy, promote growth, and benefit those hurt most by the recession.
  - a. Make it a priority to create family-supporting jobs.
  - b. Use resources to build worker skills and link training to job-creation efforts.
  - c. Invest in distressed communities.
  - d. Maximize resources to benefit workers and their families.
2. Assure that funds are spent in an open and accountable manner that maximizes benefits.
  - a. Allocate resources based on goals and standards through transparent processes.
  - b. Maintain public accountability.
  - c. Align public systems and resources to achieve optimal impact.

### **S.B. 1113, AAC Medicaid**

PCSW supports passage of S.B. 1113, which would improve a variety of services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries. In particular, we support the proposal to apply for a home and community-based services waiver to develop and implement a program for up to 100 individuals living with HIV/AIDS under certain conditions.

PCSW is particularly concerned about the impact of HIV/AIDS on women as it is the leading causes of death for women in the state of Connecticut.<sup>1</sup> Connecticut ranks ninth in the nation in AIDS cases per capita and in 2005 had the fastest growing rate of AIDS in New England. Since 1980, 14,399 people in Connecticut have been diagnosed with AIDS, and there are currently 8,821 people living with HIV/AIDS in the state.<sup>2</sup> Of the 14,487 reported AIDS cases- 28% are female, 36.7% are Black, and 25.5% are Hispanic.<sup>3</sup> Of the reported new AIDS cases – 35.9% are female, 33% are Black, and 32.6 % are Hispanic.<sup>4</sup>

Racial and ethnic populations have been disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Connecticut. Although Blacks/African-Americans and Hispanics represent 9.1% and 9.4% of Connecticut's population,<sup>5</sup> 62.3% of reported AIDS cases and 65.9% of reported HIV infections are among these populations.<sup>6</sup> Among women, the disparities are even more dramatic, with Black/African-American and Hispanic women representing 70.2% of females with AIDS, and 72.3% of females with HIV infection.<sup>7</sup>

We appreciate your attention to these matters.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, *Mortality by State, Race/Ethnicity, Gender, Age and Causes, 1999-2002*, accessed 9/05 at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> *Connecticut: Distribution of Reported AIDS Cases*. The Henry F. Kaiser Family Foundation accessed 2/07 at [www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, *Table DP-a. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics*.

<sup>6</sup> CT Department of Public Health. *CT HIV/AIDS Statistics through December 31, 2004*, available at [www.dph.state.ct.us/BCH/infectiousdise/2003/final%20pages/topic\\_index\\_X.htm](http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BCH/infectiousdise/2003/final%20pages/topic_index_X.htm), accessed on 1/19/06.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.