

Endnotes

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⁴U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, 2004.

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⁶Partnership for Strong Families.

⁷CFED, 2007-2008 Asset & Opportunity Scorecard

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⁹See, Endnote i

¹⁰Amramovitz, Mimi and Sandra Morgen. *Taxes are a Woman's Issue: Reframing the Debate*. New York: National Council for Research on Women, 2006.

¹¹See, Endote vii

¹²2005 U.S. Census Findings.

¹³Ibid

¹⁴http://www.kff.org/womenshealth/upload/1613_07.pdf

¹⁵Office of Health Care Access, 2006 Household Survey.

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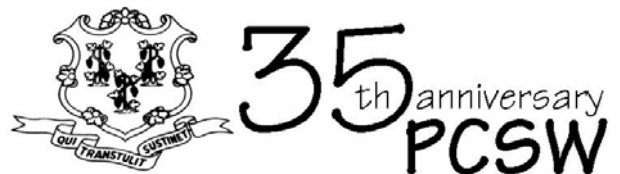
¹⁸U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, *Mortality by State, Race/Ethnicity, Gender, Age and Causes*, 1999-2002, accessed 9/05 at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)

Legislative Report

2008 Session

September 2008



the State's leading force for women's equality

Connecticut General Assembly
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
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The PCSW was created in 1973 by an act of the Connecticut General Assembly. Under Sections 46a-1 through 46a-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes, a seventeen member Commission, staff and volunteers work to eliminate sex discrimination in Connecticut. Five Commission members are appointed by the Governor, four are appointed by the Speaker of the House, and four are appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Co-Chairs and ranking members of the Judiciary committee also serve on the Commission.

Commissioners

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- Carrier L. Gallagher, Secretary
- Elizabeth Donohue, Treasurer
- Yvonne R. Davis
- Barbara DeBaptiste
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- Senator John A. Kissell
- Representative Michael P. Lawlor
- Representative Arthur J. O'Neill

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- H.B. 5691, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Supplies for the Treatment of Lymphedema - Insurance and Real Estate
- H.B. 5705, AAC the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease through Community-Based Physical Activity Programs - Public Health
- H.B. 5836, AAC Staffing at Domestic Violence Shelters - Judiciary
- H.B. 5913, AA Appropriating Funds for Cancer Prevention and Treatment - Human Services

Discrimination

- H.B. 5723, AAC Discrimination - Judiciary

Budgetary & Other Matters

- sS.B. 34, AA Implementing the Governors Budget Recommendations with Respect to Social Services Programs - Human Services
- H.B. 5021, AA Making Adjustments to the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2009 - Department of Labor Budget - Appropriations
- H.B. 5021, AA Making Adjustments to the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2009 - Department of Social Services Budget- Appropriations
- H.B. 5021, AA Making Adjustments to the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2009 - Asian Pacific American Commission Budget- Appropriations
- H.B. 5914, AAC Programs and Services for Female Inmates and Ex-Offenders - Judiciary
- H.B. 5917, AAC a Department of Correction Advisory Commission - Judiciary

Women's Health and Safety

- +PA 08-88, AAC the State-Funded Home Care Program for the Disabled (S.B. 414)- Human Services
- *PA 08-171, AA Establishing a Minority Health Advisory Commission (S.B. 681) - Government Administration and Elections
- *S.B. 60, AAC Bullying in the Workplace - Labor and Public Employees
- S.B. 172, AA Requiring Communication of Mammographic Breast Density Information to Patients - Insurance and Real Estate
- *+S.B. 243, AAC the Establishment of a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program - Public Health
- *S.B. 313, AAC Health Insurance for College Students - Insurance and Real Estate
- S.B. 458, AAC Linguistic Access in Hospitals and Diversity in the Health Care Workforce - Public Health
- S.B. 459, AA Promoting the Early Detection, Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer, Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer - Public Health
- +S.B. 461, AAC Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Programs - Public Health
- S.B. 478, AA Prohibiting Copayments for Preventive Care - Insurance and Real Estate
- +S.B. 562, AAC Increased Access to the Medicaid Program for the Medically Needy Elderly and Disabled - Human Services
- +S.B. 567, AAC the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly - Human Services
- H.B. 5075, AAC Appropriations to the Department of Public Health for AIDS Prevention Initiatives - Human Services
- H.B. 5499, AAC the Required Age for Counseling - Select Committee on Children
- H.B. 5591, AAC Healthy Teens - Education
- H.B. 5618, AAC Revisions to the Husky Plan - Human Services
- H.B. 5622, AAC Expansion of Shelter Services for Victims of Household Abuse - Human Services

For 35 years, the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) has carried out its mandate to conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women in Connecticut. PCSW provides information, research and analysis to elected officials and the public regarding issues affecting the status of women across their lifespan-from young adults to elders.

To better identify the needs of Connecticut women, the PCSW convenes the Connecticut Women's Health Campaign (CWHC), which is a broad coalition of organizations that have been committed to and working for the health and well-being of Connecticut women over their life span; and the Young Women's Leadership Program (YWLP), which highlights the concerns of young women ages 18-35. PCSW also held three public hearings in the Fall of 2007 and the Winter of 2008 in Enfield, Norwalk, and Storrs to provide an opportunity for Connecticut women to talk to their legislators and community representatives about their needs and concerns regarding their economic and financial security.

The following legislative priorities are designed to address the inequities for women, thereby benefiting all citizens of Connecticut. The legislative priorities are followed by brief summaries of selected bills that the PCSW monitored because of their potential impact on the status of women.

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- *H.B. 5550, AAC Tenants in Multi-Family Buildings That Have Been Foreclosed - Select Committee on Housing
- *H.B. 5552, AAC Procedures in the Foreclosure of Residential Premises - Select Committee on Housing
- H.B. 5584, AA Increasing Funding for the Incumbent Worker Training Program - Commerce
- H.B. 5619, AAC Reimbursement Rates to Child Care Providers Under the Child Care Subsidy Program - Human Services
- H.B. 5620, AA Raising the Child Support Age Limit - Human Services
- H.B. 5621, AAC the Right to a Hearing in the Rental Assistance Program, Transitional Rental Assistance Program and Section 8 Voucher Program - Select Committee on Housing
- *H.B. 5684, AAC Funding of the Connecticut Workforce Advancement Grants for Education Program - Higher Education and Employment Advancement
- *H.B. 5686, AAC a Pilot Program for Training for Green Industries - Higher Education and Employment Advancement
- *H.B. 5687, AAC the Nursing Profession - Higher Education and Employment Advancement
- *H.B. 5688, AAC the Centralization and Development of a Junior Worker Enterprises Program - Higher Education and Employment Advancement
- *H.B. 5758, AAC Homeowner Protection from Foreclosure - General Law
- H.B. 5884, AAC a Study of Business Activity Tax for Corporations - Finance, Revenue and Bonding
- H.B. 5907, AAC the Temporary Family Assistance Program - Human Services
- H.B. 5909, AAC the Elimination of Time Limits for Transitional Individuals in the State-Administered General Assistance Program - Human Services
- DECD Strategic Plan Re: Women and Economic Development - Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)

- S.B. 416, AA Eliminating the Fee for Identity Cards and Appropriating Funds for the Prevention of Homelessness - Human Services
- *S.B. 466, AA Establishing the Learn Here, Live Here Program - Higher Education and Employment Advancement
- *S.B. 486, AAC Family and Medical Leave for Employees of Municipalities - Labor and Public Employees
- *S.B. 551, AAC Nanotechnology - Commerce
- S.B. 574, AAC the Federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children - Public Health
- S.B. 656, AAC the Tax on Affected Business Entities - Finance, Revenue and Bonding
- S.B. 666, AAC the Reduction of Child Poverty - Human Services
- H.B. 5102, AA Providing Equal Payments Per Child for Relative Caregivers Receiving Child Only Benefits under the Temporary Family Assistance Program - Select Committee on Children
- *H.B. 5108, AAC Investments in Career Development Services, Incumbent Worker Training and Apprenticeship Training Opportunities- Labor and Public Employees
- *H.B. 5148, AA Reestablishing the Department of Housing - Select Committee on Housing
- H.B. 5164, AAC Buyer Protection in Foreclosure by Sales - Banks
- *H.B. 5165, AAC the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program - Banks
- *H.B. 5262, AAC An Appropriation for Job Training in Shortage Areas and for Ex-Inmates - Higher Education and Employment Advancement
- H.B. 5488, AAC an Increase in Temporary Family Assistance Benefits for Grandparents and Other Caretaker Relatives Raising Children - Select Committee on Children
- *H.B. 5510, AA Creating a Skilled Workforce for Connecticut's Film Industry - Higher Education and Employment Advancement

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PCSW Legislative Priorities

Economic & Financial Security

Family Friendly Policies – Support proposals that offer sustainable family and work policies to increase economic self-sufficiency for all families.

Education and Training - Support proposals to increase basic adult education programs for low-skill, low-wage workers; and occupational skills training programs for incumbent workers and workers in vocational and technology fields.

Asset Building – Support efforts to encourage financial literacy and expand access to asset-building strategies.

Microenterprises – Support efforts to define the unique needs of very small businesses and find solutions that take into consideration their size or revenues.

Housing – Support efforts to provide a coordinated approach in addressing programs and services to prevent homelessness, and increase the number of affordable housing units and homeownership opportunities.

Basic Needs – Support efforts to increase eligibility levels for subsidized housing, healthcare, child care, and financial assistance programs.

- ***PA 08-123**, AAC an Emergency Relief Plan for Connecticut Families for Housing Costs and Enhancements to Supportive Housing (S.B. 2) – Planning and Development
- **PA 08-161**, AAC Family Prosperity and the Recommendations of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council (S.B. 344)– Select Committee on Children
- ***PA 08-163**, AA Establishing an Adult Literacy Board (S.B. 465) – Higher Education and Employment Advancement
- ***S.B. 21**, AAC Mortgage Lending - Banks
- ***S.B. 40**, AAC Supportive Housing – Public Health
- ***S.B. 142**, AA Increasing the Number of Housing Units in the Next Steps Initiative – Select Committee on Housing
- ***S.B. 143**, AA Appropriating Funds of the State for the Rent Bank Program – Select Committee on Housing
- **S.B. 163**, AAC a State Earned Income Tax Credit – Human Services
- ***S.B. 208**, AA Prohibiting Penalties for Prepayment of Certain Loans and Authorizing Bonds of the State for the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program – Planning and Development
- ***S.B. 217**, AA Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees – Labor and Public Employees
- **S.B. 266**, AA Establishing a Task Force to Study the Causes of Fatherlessness in Connecticut – Select Committee on Children
- **S.B. 326**, AA Requiring the Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines to be Updated Every Two Years - Judiciary
- ***S.B. 347**, AAC Homeowners’ Protection – Select Committee on Housing
- ***S.B. 349**, AAC Moderate Income Housing for Elderly Persons – Select Committee on Housing
- ***S.B. 351**, AAC Funding for Rental Assistance Programs – Select Committee on Housing
- **S.B. 399**, AAC Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses – Commerce
- **S.B. 400**, AA Eliminating the Business Entity Tax - Commerce

H.B. 5898, AAC Affirmative Action Personnel of State Agencies – Failed

This bill would have required CHRO to conduct a study to evaluate the need for an Office of Diversity Ombudsman to oversee the affirmative action officers of each state agency.

Legal Protection for Gender Identity and Expression

sH.B. 5723, AAC Discrimination – Failed

This bill would have made gender identity and expression a protected class under state anti-discrimination laws.

Legal Protection for Same Gender Couples

H.B. 5925, AAC Civil Unions – Failed

This bill would have addressed the problems that civil union partners are having in accessing the benefits, protections and responsibilities to which they are entitled under state law. It would have also recognized as a civil union in Connecticut the legal union of two persons of the same sex validly entered into in another state or jurisdiction.

Submitted Testimony

PCSW submitted oral or written testimony on the following 79 bills or issues before 17 legislative committees. A plus sign (+) indicates that testimony was also submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Women’s Health Campaign (CWHC); an asterisk (*) indicates that testimony was also submitted on behalf of the Young Women’s Leadership Program (YWLP).

Economic & Financial Security

- **PA 08-22**, AAC Eligibility for Emergency Housing Assistance from the Department of Social Services (H.B. 5623)- Human Services
- **PA 08-28**, AAC the Elimination of Time Limits for Transitional Individuals in the State-Administered General Assistance Program
- ***PA 08-92**, AAC the Minimum Wage (H.B. 5105) - Labor and Public Employees
- **PA 08-97**, AAC Support for Grandparents and Other Relative Caregivers (S.B. 66)- Select Committee on Aging

Women’s Health & Safety

Cancer Detection and Treatment – Support efforts to increase funding and expand access to early breast, cervical, ovarian, and lung cancer detection services and treatment.

Reproductive Health –Support efforts to ensure the right to access and receive comprehensive reproductive health services.

Universal Health Care – Support efforts to increase healthcare access for all state residents.

Gender, Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care – Support efforts to address the need for effective data collection on gender, racial, and ethnic health issues in the state in order to develop appropriate interventions.

Violence Against Women – Support measures to increase funding for sexual assault nurse examiners, and services and shelter staff in domestic violence programs.

Discrimination

Legal Protection for Gender Identity and Expression – Support measures to make “gender identity and expression” a protected class under state anti-discrimination laws.

Legal Protections for Same Gender Couples – Support measures to extend the right to civil marriage to same gender couples.

YWLP Legislative Priorities

Economic & Financial Security for Young Women

Paid Sick Leave- Support proposals that would provide part-time and full-time employees with paid sick leave.

Affordable Housing- Support proposals to increase the number of affordable housing units and homeownership opportunities.

Affordable Education- Support proposals that address increased funding of financial aid and scholarships and proposals that protect students against unfair college loan interest rates.

Financial Literacy Initiatives- Support proposals to provide education and programming about financial literacy.

Educational Equality- Support proposals that encourage young women to participate in math/science/technology fields including the emerging field of nanotechnology; and increase the monetary value of certain female dominated fields.

Paid Medical Leave- Support proposals that assist young professionals in balancing work and family responsibilities.

Young Women's Health & Safety

Health Care- Support proposals to increase access to health care.

Reproductive Health- Support efforts to ensure the right to access and receive comprehensive reproductive health services.

Criminal Justice - Support efforts to provide gender-specific services in the criminal justice system.

Comprehensive SANE Nurse Programs- Support proposals to provide SANE nurses in hospitals across Connecticut to ensure that young women are guaranteed timely and comprehensive sexual assault services.

s.S.B. 458, AAC Linguistic Access in Hospitals and Diversity in the Health Care Workforce – Failed

This bill would have required DPH to examine hospital compliance with existing requirements to ensure that patients who do not speak English have access to services.

Violence Against Women

s.S.B. 243, AAC the Establishment of a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program – Failed
This bill would have required the Office of Victim Services (OVS) to establish a program to train sexual assault forensic examiners and make them available to sexual assault victims at participating hospitals. It would have also created a nine-member committee to advise OVS on establishing and implementing the program.

s.H.B. 5622, AAC Expansion of Shelter Services for Victims of Household Abuse – Failed
This bill would have provided 24 hour on-site support staff at domestic violence shelters.

Discrimination

Despite laws that prohibit such conduct, sexual harassment and discrimination based upon gender, race and ethnicity is prevalent in the workplace. On a yearly basis, PCSW receives hundreds of calls and emails regarding workplace discrimination, and assists with the filing of at least 50 formal complaints with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO).

S.B. 60, AAC Bullying in the Workplace – Failed

This bill would have established policies to address workplaces where an employee is subjected to abusive conduct that is so severe that it causes physical or psychological harm to the employee.

s.H.B. 5700, AAC a Change in Affirmative Action Officers Reporting Requirements and Organization – Failed

This bill would have required the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to audit the duties, independence, and authority of state agency affirmative action officers.

PA 08-88, AAC the State-Funded Home Care Program for the Disabled (s.S.B. 414)– PASSED, effective July 1, 2008

This law increases the asset limits in the state-funded, pilot home and community-based services program for adults under age 65 from 100% to 150% for single applicants, and from 150% to 200% for married applicants.

S.B. 313, AAC Health Insurance for College Students – Failed

This bill would have required public and independent institutions of higher education to open its health insurance plan to students.

S.B. 562, AAC Increased Access to the Medicaid Program for the Medically Needy Elderly and Disabled – Failed

This bill would have required DSS to exercise existing federal options that permit the use of less restrictive methodology in determining the income limit when making Medicaid eligibility determinations for persons who are aged, blind or disabled.

S.B. 567, AAC the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly – Failed

This bill would have expanded community-based services under the Connecticut Home Care program to include personal care assistance services.

H.B. 5075, AAC Appropriations to the Department of Public Health for AIDS Prevention Initiatives – Failed

This bill would have appropriated funds to the Department of Public Health (DPH) to enhance AIDS prevention initiatives.

Gender, Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care

PA 08-171, AA Establishing a Minority Health Advisory Commission (s.S.B. 681) – PASSED, effective upon passage

This law establishes a 32-member Commission on Health Equity to work to eliminate disparities in health status based on race, ethnicity, and linguistic ability. PCSW is a member.

Workplace Bullying- Support proposals that address relational aggression in the workplace.

CW/HC Legislative Priorities

Women's Health & Safety

Support measures to increase funding for sexual assault nurse examiners.

Support proposals to promote comprehensive sexuality education through incentive grants.

Support efforts to enhance the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Disabled.

Legislative Summary

Economic & Financial Security

According to the family economic self-sufficiency standard (FESS), 20% of Connecticut working families do not have enough income to meet their basic costs of living.ⁱ Of the 20%, female head of households represent 29% vs. 14% of male head of households.ⁱⁱ In Connecticut, elderly women represent 58.9% of the total elderly population,ⁱⁱⁱ and 15.13% of the total female population in poverty.^{iv}

Thirty-three percent of Connecticut's population rent rather than own,^v with many spending 30% of their household incomes on rent.^{vi} Of the homeowner population, 39% are people of color and 65% are females;^{vii} the average age of a first time female homebuyer is 32.^{viii} Most families in Connecticut spend 30% to 40% of their income on childcare.^{ix}

Education, job training, and asset building are key components to ensuring economic and financial self-sufficiency for women. Women are less likely than men to have a financial cushion, due to inequities in pay, more frequently interrupted work patterns and longer life spans. More than half of young single women age 25 to 34 report living paycheck to paycheck and spending all their earnings every month.^x Female-headed households have a net worth of \$88,400 and households headed by people of color have a net worth of \$6,700, as compared to male-headed households with a net worth of \$167,700.^{xi}

While annual income decides a family's day to day economy, assets and investments are the foundation for long-term security. An avenue to build assets is through entrepreneurship. Microenterprises, which are businesses that employ five or fewer people, are dominated by women and generally start as part-time, home-based businesses. In 2005, there were 320,399 microenterprises in Connecticut, with an annual payroll of \$6.7 million.^{xii} In 2002, microenterprises grossed over \$1.9 billion.^{xiii}

In Connecticut, the leading causes of death for women are major cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic lower respiratory diseases, and HIV/AIDS.^{xiiii} There is a clear racial and ethnic disparity as African-American and Hispanic women are at a greater risk for these diseases than White women. The extent of the problem with Asian populations is unknown due to lack of sufficient data.

Healthcare for women should be gender appropriate, culturally competent, comprehensive and preventive, affordable and accessible, and confidential.

Cancer Detection and Treatment

sS.B. 172, AA Requiring Communication of Mammographic Breast Density Information to Patients – Failed

This bill would have required that mammography reports given to a patient include information about breast density.

H.B. 5691, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Supplies for the Treatment of Lymphedema – Failed

This bill would have required certain individual and group health insurance policies to provide coverage for supplies prescribed by a physician for the treatment of lymphedema.

Reproductive Health

sH.B. 5591, AAC Healthy Teens - Failed

This bill would have required the State Board of Education (SDE) to expand its family life education curriculum guides to address ways to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

Universal Health Care

PA 08-183, AA Establishing the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership (sH.B. 5536) – Governor Vetoed

This law allows municipalities, certain municipal service contractors, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses to join the state employee health insurance plan for their employees and retirees. It also establishes a Nonstate Public Health Care Advisory Committee and Private Sector Health Care Advisory Committee to make recommendations concerning municipal and private sector coverage.

S.B. 351, AAC Funding for Rental Assistance Programs – Failed

This bill would have provided funding to DSS for the purpose of funding the rental assistance program.

Basic Needs

PA 08-97, AAC Support for Grandparents and Other Relative Caregivers (S.B. 66) - PASSED, effective July 1, 2008

This law allows grandparents or other relative caregivers who are appointed as guardians of a child through the Superior Court to apply for grants under the Kinship fund and Grandparents and Relatives Respite Fund.

PA 08-100, AAC the Expansion of the Care 4 Kids Program (S.H.B. 5708) – PASSED, effective July 1, 2008

This law requires DSS to establish eligibility standards for participants who are temporarily unemployed.

H.B. 5619, AAC Reimbursement Rates to Child Care Providers Under the Child Care Subsidy Program - Failed

This bill would have increased the income level for child care subsidies to 75% of the state-median income, and extended eligibility to adoptive families of children under the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). It would have also reimbursed licensed child care providers up to 75% of the weekly market rate of the cost of providing child care services.

Women's Health & Safety

As of December 2007, there were over 130,000 uninsured women ages 18-64 in Connecticut.^{xiv} Of the 19-29 year old population in the state, women represent almost a quarter of all uninsured women (23.8%), and men represent more than a third of all uninsured men (36.1%).^{xv} Women are more vulnerable to medical debt than men. Fifty-six percent of medical bankruptcy filers are women,^{xvi} and female-headed households have higher out-of-pocket expenditures than male-headed households.^{xvii}

Family Friendly Policies

PA 08-161, AAC Family Prosperity and the Recommendations of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council (S.B. 344)– PASSED, effective October 1, 2008

This law requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to administer a food stamp employment and training program.

PA 08-92, AAC the Minimum Wage (S.H.B. 5105) – PASSED (The Legislature Overrode the Governor's Veto)

This law raises the state minimum hourly wage from \$7.65 to \$8.00 on January 1, 2009, and to \$8.25 on January 1, 2010.

S.S.B. 217, AA Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees - Failed

This bill would have required all employers with 50 or more employees to provide their employees with a maximum of 6½ paid sick days a year.

S.S.B. 486, AAC Family and Medical Leave for Employees of Municipalities - Failed

This bill would have required municipalities to provide their employees with the same Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) benefits the state provides to its employees.

S.S.B. 657, AAC a Taxpayer Relief Plan – Failed

This bill would have provided a state earned income tax credit (EITC) equal to 10% of the federal EITC for low-income working families.

S.B. 324, AAC the Collection of Child Activity Fees Pursuant to a Support Order – Failed

This bill would have allowed child support orders to include payments for athletic, extracurricular, and other activity fees.

Education and Training

PA 08-163, AA Establishing an Adult Literacy Board (s.S.B. 465) - PASSED, effective July 1, 2008

This law creates a 19-member Adult Literacy Leadership Board within the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) and requires the board to develop a three-year strategic plan for an adult literacy system, prepare an annual report card on the status of adult literacy in the state, and report annually to the Governor and the Legislature.

sH.B. 5108, AAC Investments in Career Development Services, Incumbent Worker Training and Apprenticeship Training – Failed
This bill would have provided funding to the Department of Labor (DOL) for incumbent worker training and the development of jobs for unemployed and underemployed older youth and adult workers.

sH.B. 5686, AAC a Pilot Program for Training for Green Industries – Failed
This bill would have required the Community-Technical Colleges to establish a pilot green jobs training program.

H.B. 5687, AAC the Nursing Profession – Failed
This bill would have expanded the Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness program and the RN Refresher course.

H.B. 5688, AAC the Centralization and Development of a Junior Worker Enterprise Program – Failed
This bill would have expanded off-campus internship and work opportunities for college students.

Asset Building

PA 08-23, AAC the Connecticut IDA Initiative (H.B. 5624) – PASSED, effective October 1, 2008

This law expands the permitted use of funds from the Individual Development Account (IDA) program to include payment for education and job training for dependent children.

Microenterprises

sS.B. 399, AAC Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses – Failed

This bill would have established a task force to study ways to provide regulatory relief for small businesses.

S.B. 400, AA Eliminating the Business Entity Tax – Failed

This bill would have eliminated the tax on limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, limited partnerships and S corporations.

S.B. 537, AAC Municipal Set-Aside Programs – Failed

This bill would have required municipalities to participate in the state's small and minority business set-aside program.

Housing

PA 08-22, AAC Eligibility for Emergency Housing Assistance from the Department of Social Services (H.B. 5623) – PASSED, effective October 1, 2008

This law allows recipients of Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) or State Supplemental benefits who are foreclosure defendants to be eligible for DSS emergency housing benefits at the time a foreclosure judgment is entered, rather than when the property owner's right to redeem has expired.

PA 08-123, AAC an Emergency Relief Plan for Connecticut Families for Housing Costs and Enhancements to Supportive Housing (sS.B. 2) – PASSED, effective upon passage
This law authorizes the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to provide an additional 500 supportive housing units for people with mental illness.

sS.B. 347, AAC Homeowners' Protection – Failed

This bill would have revised the homeowner mortgage foreclosure protection law to expand eligibility for court-ordered homeowner protection, extend filing deadlines, extend the maximum restructuring period, and require the court to issue certain disclosure forms.