



# Official Statement

18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106 • 860/240-8300 • [pcsw@cga.ct.gov](mailto:pcsw@cga.ct.gov) • [www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/](http://www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/)

**Contact: Christine Palm, Communications Director 860/240-8449;  
[Christine.palm@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Christine.palm@cga.ct.gov)**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 2-4-09**

**FROM: Teresa C. Younger, Executive Director of the Connecticut General Assembly's  
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women**

**RE: Gov. M. Jodi Rell's budget proposal, announced today at noon**

“In dire fiscal times the last thing government should do is make it harder on those already on the short end – working families, women, students and the elderly. Eliminating groups like the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women only silences the voices that most need to be heard and allows government to be even less accountable than it is now.

“Rather than seeing our work as expendable, the Governor should instead consider it preventive medicine, which is always more cost-effective than treating a condition that's gotten out of control. For example, the PCSW saves the State about \$400,000 in education and training in sexual harassment prevention; cutting down on the number of sexual harassment complaints filed now saves money on unnecessary litigation later. Ensuring that women have access to mammograms today means less medical intervention tomorrow. And that's how our work operates across the span of a woman's life.

“Governor Rell says she will use State resources for legitimate purposes. Who would argue about the legitimacy of economic security for women and families? It's a fallacy to think that Connecticut's families will be strong if women are still financially insecure. One-fifth of Connecticut's female-headed households live below the poverty line, and these are the kinds of issues which the PCSW is mandated to address. And we do it at a cost of just 77 cents for each woman over the age of 18 here in Connecticut. That's how our budget divides up among the state's women.

“Clearly, we need to study the proposed budget in greater depth, but we'll do so with an eye to ensuring that all voices are heard, including that of women, who make up 51 percent of the population. As an arm of the Legislature, the PCSW reviews and studies about 130 bills each year and testifies on an average of 80. When the Governor talks about eliminating existing laws, we'll be looking hard to make sure we, as a state, aren't taking a giant step backward when it comes to providing the basic needs of the state's women and their families.”