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Connecticut
Women

Connecticut General Assembly
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MAKING WOMEN VISIBLE DAY 2008

Hartford—Today the state legislature's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) presented its annual *Making Women Visible Day* at the state Capitol in Hartford. The event marks the commencement of PCSW's 35th anniversary year in state government.

The PCSW released its 2008 legislative priorities, including women's health and safety, discrimination, and economic and financial security, and highlighted its latest report, *Getting to a Better Tomorrow: A Women's Economic Security Package*.

The report is the PCSW's three-part plan for Connecticut women. It includes recommendations for workforce development and education; economic and asset development; and income, work supports, and better workplaces.

"When we talk about women's issues we're really talking about family issues," said PCSW Executive Director Teresa Younger. "Today begins our celebration of 35 years as the state's leading force for women's equality. Even after the Commission's many successes, women and families in our state still struggle to make ends meet. Our new report emphasizes the importance of economic and financial security and recommends solutions to help women and their families achieve this goal. As the State's leading force for women, we will continue to strive to help them achieve that goal."

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The PCSW was joined by state leaders and officials in recognition of its milestone at a press conference in the morning. In keeping with PCSW's theme for the coming year of Economic and Financial Security, guest speaker Michelle Bussolotti, a student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, shared her personal experiences with financial insecurity. "In my first job out of college, I earned \$13 per hour, working thirty-five hours per week, with no health insurance for my son. I didn't even live paycheck to paycheck, but in debt and more debt." With plans to graduate with her Masters in Social Work in May, Ms. Bussolotti fears that her situation will not improve. "Connecticut does not consider earning a college degree work. Twenty-five other states disagree, and support women on benefits to earn their college degree, realizing that it promotes self-sufficiency, empowers future generations, and is an investment to society," she continued.

Stacey Tisdale, on air financial journalist and author, rounded out the day's activities with a keynote address based on her book *The True Cost of Happiness: The Real Story Behind Managing Your Money*. An expert on the financial issues facing women, Ms. Tisdale brought her expertise to a free workshop for attendees.

For copies of reports and publications released today, visit the PCSW website at www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw.

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, the State's leading force on women's equality, was established by the CT General Assembly in 1973. The Commission studies all matters concerning women, informs leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, serves as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, promotes consideration of women for governmental positions and works with state agencies to access programs and practices as they affect women.

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