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RE: U.S. Supreme Court Decision on Ricci v. DeStefano
DATE: Monday, June 29, 2009
FROM: State's leading women's organizations

From Teresa C. Younger, executive director, Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women:

"This case has shed new light on Title VII, as people across the country are reinterpreting its original intent. We see Title VII as the cornerstone of anti-discrimination protection, and its role in preventing discrimination based on gender, race or religious affiliation cannot be overstated. Despite the outcome of Ricci v. DeStefano, societal and workplace inequities certainly still exist, and if nothing else, this case proves that the tenets of the Civil Rights Act are as critical today as they were when the Act was signed into law more than four decades ago."

From Alice Pritchard, executive director, Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund:

"For 45 years, Title VII has provided critical employment protections for women and minorities. We believe that Title VII must continue to be enforced in a manner consistent with its important purpose - a manner that both ensures that the workplace is an environment free from discrimination and in a way that allows employers to identify and correct their employment practices that create a disparate impact on these populations. While the Ricci decision acknowledges the continued existence of such barriers, we are disappointed that the decision thwarts employers' efforts to eliminate these barriers."

About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a of the Connecticut General Statutes to study "all matters concerning women, and in furtherance of that responsibility shall: (a) inform leaders of business, education, State and local governments and the communications media of the nature and scope of the problem of sex discrimination, with a view to enlisting their support in working toward improvement; (b) serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women; (c) promote consideration of qualified women for all levels of government positions; (d) oversee coordination and assess programs and practices in all State agencies as they affect women."

About CWEALF: Incorporated in 1973, CWEALF is one of the oldest nonprofit women's rights organizations in the country. CWEALF is dedicated to empowering women, girls and their families to achieve equal opportunities in their personal and professional lives. The organization educates individuals through direct contact to navigate the legal and social service systems; provide training, technical assistance and resource to employers, schools, and community organizations and work to improve laws and policies that affect women, girls and their families.