

Connecticut General Assembly



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

Official Statement

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PCSW's Younger Applauds Passage of Ledbetter Act

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HARTFORD – Teresa C. Younger, Executive Director of the Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), today applauded the U.S. Senate for its vote on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Ledbetter is considered critical to achieving pay equity and fair employment conditions by extending the amount of time an employee has to file a complaint about workplace wage discrimination.

Citing Thursday's decisive 61 to 36 vote, Younger said:

“This bill now goes on to President Obama, who as a previous sponsor, is expected to sign it into law. This sends a very strong message that women's equity is, finally, on the national agenda. We cannot grow the middle class without ensuring that women have financial standing and security equal to that of their male co-workers. Women remain the biggest untapped engine for driving economic recovery, but we can't do it on 78 cents for every dollar a man earns. I applaud not only the House and the Senate for their enlightened votes, but specifically Senators Dodd and Lieberman for co-sponsoring this critical bill.”

Younger went on to cite the importance of Ledbetter to the cause of pay equity:

“From the moment a woman enters the workforce, the wage gap starts – even when she has the same educational levels and career choices as her male colleagues – and it continues, really, until her death. This gap sets into motion a chain of events that lead inevitably to economic insecurity: because women tend to make less than men, and often work fewer hours (as they are primarily caretakers of the family) they earn far less in Social Security benefits. And because they tend to live longer than men, women are far more likely to spend their elder years in poverty and far less likely to accumulate the assets needed to live comfortably in retirement.”