

Connecticut General Assembly



PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

Official Statement

18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106 • 860/240-8300 • pcsw@cga.ct.gov • www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/

FROM: Teresa C. Younger, Executive Director

RE: President Obama's New White House Council on Women and Girls

DATE: March 16, 2009

“We applaud President Obama for this initiative, and for his recognition that the nation’s prosperity depends upon the prosperity of its women. In citing such pervasive problems as pay inequity, domestic violence and gender-based job discrimination, Mr. Obama brings to light some of the systemic inequities too many Americans want to believe no longer exist.

“It is critical that this council hold the federal government accountable, just as the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women does on a state level. If you do not consciously challenge inequities, you are unconsciously endorsing them. And when taxpayers’ money is being used to support programs and policies, we need to make sure those programs represent all citizens equally -- including the 51 percent who are women.

“For 36 years, the PCSW has been working to address the issues Mr. Obama mentioned, and others, as well. We look forward to seeing the new council’s full agenda, which needs to include detailed plans to ensure women’s financial security, health and anti-discrimination measures. This means women’s access to the non-traditional construction and engineering jobs that will figure prominently in the national economic stimulus package, better access to healthcare for women, who are too often charged more for the same services men receive, and sexual harassment prevention, such as our agency provides.”