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**PERMANENT COMMISSION ON  
THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

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**Written Testimony of  
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women  
Before the  
Public Health Committee  
Monday, March 10, 2008**

**In Support of: SB 574, AAC the Federal Special Supplemental Food Program  
for Women, Infants and Children**

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) in support of SB 574 which would establish a state-funded program to advise assistance applicants of the food program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Twenty-percent of Connecticut working families do not have enough income to meet their basic costs of living based upon the family economic self-sufficiency standard (FESS).<sup>1</sup> Of the 20%, female head of households represent 29% vs. 14% of male head of households.<sup>2</sup>

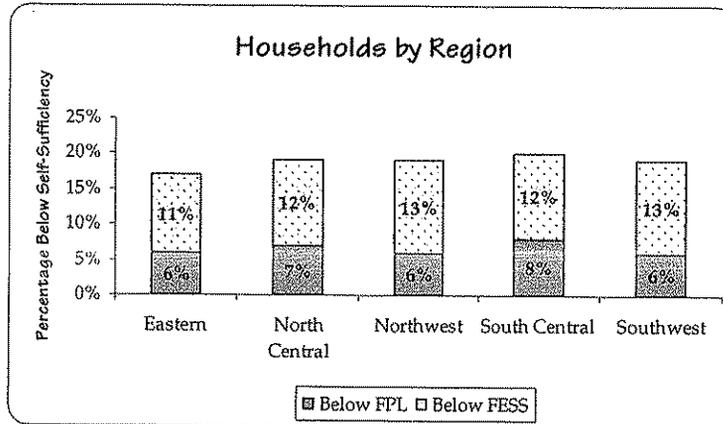
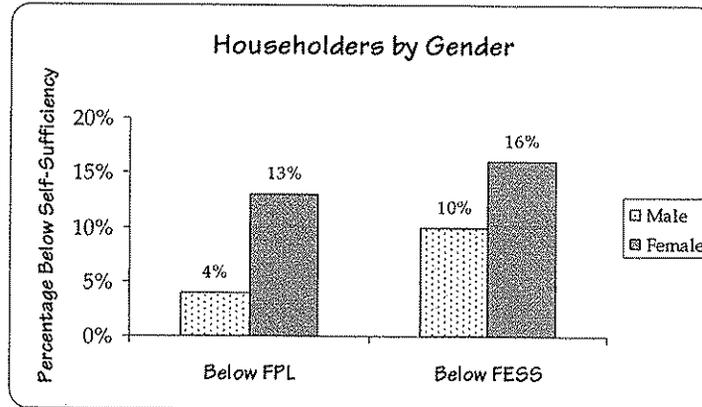
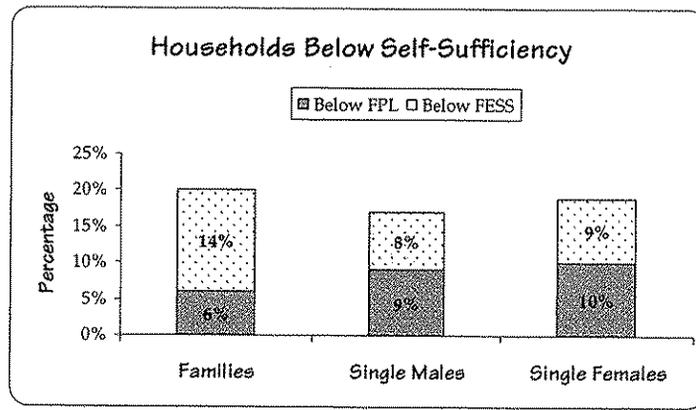
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<sup>1</sup> Diana M. Pearce, Ph.D. *Overlooked and Undercounted: Where Connecticut Stands*. Prepared for the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, June 2007 – also source for self-sufficiency charts.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

35<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
PCSW

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Lack of self-sufficiency combined with increased costs for food staples often leave families in a no-win situation. Nationally in the past year, food prices went up 4.8% which is the highest in this decade; the cost of basic nutritional foods increased substantially – 19.3% for milk; 5.9% for vegetables, 6.3% for poultry, and 10% for bread.<sup>3</sup> This bill will help families fill the gap from some of the essential nutritional foods.

We look forward to working with you to address this issue. Thank you for your consideration.

<sup>3</sup> Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2007.