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PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The State's leading force for women's equality

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Testimony of
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Before the
Appropriations Committee
March 2, 2011

Re: H.B. 6380, AAC The Budget for the Biennium Ending June 20, 2013 – Department of Public Health Budget

Senators Harp and Kane, Representatives Walker and Miner, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) regarding the Department of Public Health's budget.

This bill proposes to cut funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection and Treatment Program and Aids Services by 17% each. This would negatively impact a large portion of women in the state.

Breast Cancer

- In 2005, 2,802 CT women were diagnosed with malignant breast cancer.¹
- Breast cancer is diagnosed more often than any other cancer, representing 29% of the diagnosed cancer cases women.²
- Connecticut ranks 26th in the nation for the number of deaths from breast cancer.³

In Connecticut, White women have a breast cancer incidence rate of 135.5. This rate is higher than Blacks (121.7), Asian and Pacific Islanders (109.3) and Hispanics (107.2). However, Black women have a higher estimated mortality rate than White women, 33.8 and 25.4 respectively.⁴ The

¹ CT Department of Public Health, <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3134&q=396512>

² The CT Tumor Registry, Cancer in Connecticut in 2005 With a Focus on Tobacco Related Cancers, February 2009

³ Ibid.

⁴ National Cancer Institute. State Cancer Profiles, 2002. <<http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/incidencerates/incidencerates.html>>. 18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106 • phone: 860/240-8300 • fax: 860/240-8314 • email: pcsw@cga.ct.gov • web: www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw

disparity between incidence and mortality rates is attributed to Black women being diagnosed with breast cancer at a later stage, when five-year survival is less likely.⁵

HIV/AIDS

- In 2008, 2,297 CT women were living with HIV/AIDS.⁶
- African-American and Hispanic women make up 70.2% of females with AIDS, and 72.3% of females with HIV infection.⁷

Racial and ethnic populations have been disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Connecticut. Although African-Americans and Hispanics represent about 20% of Connecticut's population, 65% of reported AIDS cases are among these populations.⁸

Budget cuts in these areas are detrimental to the health and safety for all Connecticut residents, particularly women of color. We look forward to working with you to address these important issues. Thank you for your consideration.

⁵ Ries L.A.G, Eisner M.P., Kosary C.L., et. al (eds). 2001. *SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1973-1998*. Bethesda, MD: National Cancer Institute.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Kaiser Family Foundation. *State Health Facts, Connecticut: Estimated Numbers of Persons Living with an AIDS Diagnosis, 2008*. AIDS population in CT – 32.7% African American and 32.1% Hispanic.