

Rosanna Cappetta  
456 Turkey Hill Rd  
Orange, CT 06477

February 19, 2013

Governor Dannel Malloy  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Malloy,

I understand you are proposing a 2013-2015 state budget plan that will effectively merge the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women with other commissions that deal with minorities in Connecticut. I strongly oppose this plan, and respectfully urge you to reconsider your plan of action.

As a young female, I am very concerned with the critical issues pertaining to women: wage inequity, reproductive rights, etc. I was fortunate to take courses in my undergraduate career in which I learned of gender inequality, especially relating to wage differences. Gender discrimination is not a thing of the past. It continues to exist at the individual, organizational, and structural levels. As a result of gender discrimination, gender- wage disparities exist which have long term implications. I was astonished when I learned that a female high school graduate will make \$700,000 less than a male graduating with her, a female college graduate will make \$1.2 million less than a male graduating by her side, and a female post-graduate student will make approximately \$2 million less than her male counterpart. As a law student, this issue is very important to me. As a result of wage inequity, I will make 23% less than my male peer. No matter how hard I work, I am destined to make less than a male graduating by my side.

As a young female residing in Connecticut with a long future ahead of me, I rely on the PCSW to represent me, and be my voice when it comes to the many issues relating to women. Merging PCSW with other commissions will only do a disfavor to me and over one million other women in Connecticut. My rights and needs as a woman do not coincide with the rights and interests of children, Latinos, African- Americans, and Asian- Americans. Women's issues are distinct, and deserve to be analyzed and represented by one commission that works solely to study policies that affect women. I count on PCSW to help women like me achieve a better status in Connecticut.

I respectfully request that you refrain from consolidating the PCSW with other legislative commissions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosanna Cappetta