

# **Religious Coalition *for* Reproductive Choice of Connecticut, Inc.**

February 14, 2013

Dear Representative Walker and Senator Harp:

As people of faith and as an organization whose mission is to educate, mobilize and advocate for the advancement of the health and well-being of women and families, The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice of Connecticut must strongly object to the proposal of Governor Malloy to consolidate the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women into one body with all other Connecticut legislative commissions.

We feel that such a consolidation will dilute the particular goals of the PCSW so that the many and varied needs of the 1,435,664 women in the state of Connecticut will not be adequately represented as various policies are put forth, especially in these tight economic times. There are too many issues which are unique to women that need the careful study and advocacy of the PCSW, and it will be a huge disservice to the women of this state to assume that a combined commission will adequately serve their needs. The PCSW has studied proposed policies that affect gender discrimination such as the pay gap for women, both in the short term through unequal pay for equal work and in long term through decreased social security benefits, and the PCSW has studied effects of proposed hospital mergers which would eliminate women's reproductive health care options.

The welfare of the children of Connecticut is entirely dependent on the economic welfare as well as the health and safety of their mothers. Simply stated, jeopardizing the well-being of Connecticut's women will directly jeopardize the well-being of Connecticut's children.

Please do not threaten the gains women have made in this state through the diligent efforts of PCSW during the past 40 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Board of Directors of the Religious Coalition for  
Reproductive Choice of Connecticut, Inc.

**Officers:**

Kate Lannamann  
President  
Betsy Wacker  
Vice President  
Rev. Barbara Hager  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Board Members:**

Marjorie Hirshfield  
Miriam Jennings  
Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling  
Rev. Maria LaSala  
Rev. Aaron Miller  
Rabbi Howard Sommer  
Rev. Katherine Stanford  
Susan Yolen

**Board Members  
Emeriti:**

Rev. Frank Hall  
Rabbi Robert Orkand

***pro-Faith pro-Family pro-Choice***

Ph.: (203) 769-5374 P.O. Box 477 Old Greenwich, CT 06870 [rcrcofct@aol.com](mailto:rcrcofct@aol.com) [rcrc-ct.org](http://rcrc-ct.org)