AIDS Connecticut

19 February 2013

Dear Senators Harp and Kane, and Representatives Walker and Miner,

I am writing a letter of support to urge you to keep the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) intact as an independent entity.

For three decades, PCSW has been one of the strongest voices and advocates on women's issues. Without them we might not have access to mammograms, protections for pregnant women from getting fired, health insurance that covers a minimum of 48 hours for a normal childbirth and 96 hours for Caesarian, and their ongoing work to support a woman's economic security, health and safety.

In a state where 33.7% of people living with HIV are women, 13% more than the national rate, and in a country where women still only make 70cents for every dollar a man makes, that violence against women is still common place, losing an organization whose sole focus is women's issues would be a great loss.

We urge you to save PCSW. Thank you.

Peace,

Shawn M Lang
Director of Public Policy, AIDS CT