



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) to Host Public Hearing in Pittsfield**

### *State Advocacy Body Seeks Input from Berkshire Region*

Boston, Mass (November 8, 2022) - On Thursday, November 17, 2022, from 5 PM – 7 PM at the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield's Public Library, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women ([MCSW](#)) is hosting their next in-person public hearing.

The MCSW is seeking testimony from women across the Commonwealth on issues that matter most to them in order to inform legislative and policy priorities for the 2022-2023 legislative session and other public organizing initiatives and opportunities. Public Hearings are a way for the state body, whose mission is to provide a permanent, effective voice for women of the Commonwealth, to hear directly from the people on local issues. This testimony, and other data gathering, provides MCSW with the tools to bring issues the public is dealing with to the forefront of state government matters.

“Our Public Hearings provide a safe and open space for all women in their communities to be heard and to share their lived experience, and the issues that impact their daily lives,” said MCSW Chairwoman Dr. Sarah Glenn-Smith. “The power of testimonies comes from sharing personal stories. Any subject surrounding issues that women face, or obstacles that hinder the ability for all women to experience equity are welcome topics. The hearing is a public meeting and an opportunity to be yourself, to find others like you and to share your story in a way that will positively influence the work that we do on behalf of all women in the Commonwealth. The MCSW works to create change in the lives of women, and your narratives guide our policy and advocacy platform.”

The event is free and open to the public. Hybrid options to join remotely will be available for those unable to join in person. Community leaders and Berkshire residents are invited to attend either virtually or in person, and testimony is open to any member of the public throughout the state. MCSW also encourages legislators and other community stakeholders to attend.

Those interested in attending virtually or in person are asked to please [register](#) by November 14 to learn more. If you are a D/deaf or person hard of hearing with a disability who requires an accommodation or are someone who would benefit from language interpretation in a language other than English (ex: Spanish, Portuguese, etc.), please indicate your need on the [registration form](#) or contact Shalaya West at [shalaya.west@mass.gov](mailto:shalaya.west@mass.gov).

MCSW will also be streaming this hearing “Live” on [Facebook](#).

Commissioners serving on the MCSW are appointed by the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House and Caucus of Women Legislators. The organization is responsible for studying, reviewing and

reporting on the status of women in the Commonwealth, and are charged with advising executive and legislative bodies on the effect of proposed legislation on women. To that end, the Commission conducts regional public hearings across the state to collect testimony and opinions on women's issues and concerns. **The Commission represents and recognizes all women, regardless of their age, race, color, creed, abilities, language, socio-economic status, immigration status, sexual orientation, or gender identity at birth.**

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*The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women ([MCSW](#)) is an independent state agency created in 1998 to provide a permanent, effective voice for women of the Commonwealth and to promote their rights, opportunities, and equality for all. Follow MCSW on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#) to learn more and get engaged.*