

From: [Talbert, Lilly](#)
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Subject: VCW VIEW: January 28th 2015
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VCW's Cary Brown provided testimony re: **paid earned sick days** yesterday, January 27th. The bill, [S.15 - An act relating to absence from work for health care and safety](#) is in the [Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs](#). Cary's quote from the testimony, "Forty-nine percent of women report that they've lost pay or promotions or have struggled to keep their jobs because of the need to care for sick children. Only 28 percent of men have said the same thing," in [this morning's Vermont Public Radio story](#), addresses the benefits specifically for women in protections offered by this kind of legislation.

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[Learn more about paid leave](#) from U.S. Department of Labor

Every other industrialized nation on Earth offers some form of government-ensured paid parental leave, according to a report by the International Labour Organization. About 11 percent of U.S. private sector employers offer some form of paid family leave, as do three states: California, New Jersey and Rhode Island. While roughly 60 percent of the U.S. workforce has access to 12 weeks of unpaid leave through the Family and Medical Leave Act, many workers still report being unable to afford the economic or professional costs of taking it. The lack of paid parental leave has costs for individuals, businesses and taxpayers — people without access to paid leave are more likely to leave the workforce after the birth of a child and more likely to require public assistance. [Learn more about paid leave from the US DOL here.](#)

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VCW Commissioner Susie Hudson of Montpelier has just been elected Secretary of the Republican National Committee [read more here](#) (courtesy VTDigger). Read a bio of Susie and our other commissioners [here](#).

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Vermont Filmmaker Bess O'Brien leads discussion and shows excerpts from her film "The Hungry Heart"

Wednesday, February 4 at 7:00 pm.

Ilseley Public Library, Middlebury Wednesday

This presentation is part of the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays lecture series and is free and open to the public. The Hungry Heart is O'Brien's latest film, which provides an intimate look at the often hidden world of prescription drug addiction in Vermont. The film recently won the American Society of Addiction Medicine's 2015 Media Award. For more information, contact the Ilseley Public Library at 802.388.4095 or contact the [Vermont](#)

[Humanities Council](#) at 802.262.2626 or view the [First Wednesdays Brochure](#)

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Human Trafficking 101 -- The Basics, Myths, Red Flags and Vermont Resources

FREE Workshop offered in 5 locations:

[click here for the St. Johnsbury workshop](#)

[click here for the St. Albans workshop](#)

[click here for the Waterbury workshop](#)

[click here for the Royalton workshop](#)

[click here for the Rutland workshop](#)

This FREE workshop, presented by Vermont-based experts in the field, provides participants information and tools so that they may, in turn, offer this information to community members and colleagues. Workshop leaders will define the crime of human trafficking and provide a general overview of its presence in the United States, and more specifically in Vermont. Course content will cover Vermont-specific human trafficking criminal statutes, victim and perpetrator profiles, trafficking venues and networks; and provide tools to identify indicators of human trafficking. Presenters include: Amy Farr, Victim Advocate, VT Attorney General's Office; Edith Klimoski, Give Way to Freedom; T.J. Anderson, VT Police Academy; and Andrea Van Liew, M.Ed., Director, Community Engagement and Training Department, Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services (VCCVS). Please link to the location nearest you for more information or to register. Questions and concerns addressed by [Andrea Van Liew](#) or 802) 241-1250 x 113. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. As defined under U.S. federal law, victims of human trafficking include children involved in the sex trade, adults age 18 or over who are coerced or deceived into commercial sex acts, and anyone forced into different forms of "labor or services," such as domestic workers held in a home, or farm-workers forced to labor against their will. The factors that each of these situations have in common are elements of force, fraud, or coercion that are used to control people. Then, that control is tied to inducing someone into commercial sex acts, or labor or services. Human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world. Becoming aware of what the crime of human trafficking is and how to recognize it, is a first step in being able to respond when trafficking appears in our communities. You'll find more information in [VCW's Resource Guide's Legal chapter](#) - scroll down for resource listings under Human Trafficking heading.

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Vermont National Guard Report

May 2013, the Governor signed into law a requirement for the Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General to provide an annual report on sexual assault, gender discrimination and discrimination based upon sexual orientation in the Vermont National Guard. Read the [recently released second annual report here](#).

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Vermont Law School (VLS) Students Present ‘Vagina Monologues’

6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, in Chase Community Center on the VLS campus
Event Benefits [Safeline](#)

Vermont Law School students will host this [V-Day](#) event with playwright Eve Ensler’s “[The Vagina Monologues](#)” with proceeds to benefit [Safeline](#), a local nonprofit that works to end physical, emotional, and sexual violence. V-Day is a global movement to increase awareness and provide support for anti-violence organizations. It generates broader attention to the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation, and sex slavery. Sponsored by [Law Students for Reproductive Justice](#), V-Day at VLS will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m. followed at 7:15 p.m. by an adaptation of Ensler’s award-winning play, based on interviews with more than 200 women. For more than a decade, “The Vagina Monologues” has given voice to experiences and feelings not previously exposed in public and brought a deeper consciousness to the conversation around ending violence against women and girls. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. More info at [eventbrite.com](#) or email [ivy-Victoria Otradovec '17](#). For more information about V-Day events in our region, visit [vday.org](#).

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Good Beginnings of Central Vermont presents Birth StoryCorps

Friday, January 30, at 7:00 p.m.

Espresso Bueno, 248 North Main Street, Barre, VT 05641

Moms, Dads, Grandparents, birth partners, doulas, midwives and the like will take birth stories to the stage as they attempt to describe the emotional, primal and sometimes hilarious experience that birth is. New and experienced storytellers are welcome to participate and will have up to five minutes on stage. Story free spectators are encouraged to attend. Babies in arms are welcome. A \$10 cover charge to benefit Good Beginnings will be collected at the door. More info [here](#).

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Recently Released Reports on Working Women from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

[Highlights of Women’s Earnings](#)
[Women in the Labor Force: A Databook](#)

[Highlights of Women's Earnings in Region I: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont](#)

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Do you work at or own a Vermont business that employs new Moms?

If the answer is yes, well there's FREE MONEY to create or improve your worksite lactation accommodations! Vermont employers may apply for a one-time grant of \$1000 to enhance their lactation spaces. Businesses will need to seek out the Request for Proposal online after Monday, February 2nd [here](#), fill out the application and both send it by both email and mail. Businesses will be matched with Vermont Department of Health staff or local Vermont Breastfeeding Coalition members who will support to provide technical assistance as they work through the process. Vermont workplaces need lower health care costs, lower turnover rates, lower absenteeism rates, and higher employee productivity and morale. How to get them? Lactation support! Want to know more about the needs and rights of moms returning to work? Read VCW's [Vermont Workplaces Support Nursing Moms](#) (PDF file, 1202 KB)

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The Greater Burlington Women's Forum presents the [documentary Miss Representation](#)

Thursday, February 5th at 7 PM at Burlington High School

Free and open to the public

As the most persuasive and pervasive force of communication in our culture, media is educating yet another generation that a woman's primary value lay in her youth, beauty and sexuality - not in her capacity as a leader, making it difficult for women to obtain leadership positions and for girls to reach their full potential. The film reviews the startling facts and asks the question, "What can we do?" Bring your friends and family (ages 13+) to see this award-winning documentary of powerful and compelling stories from both teenage girls to provocative interviews with Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Lisa Ling, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Rosario Dawson, Dr. Jackson Katz, Dr. Jean Kilbourne, and Gloria Steinem. Registration suggested, not necessary [here](#). More information: [Greater Burlington Women's Forum](#) at btvwomen@gmail.com, on Twitter @BTVwomen. Special note: The Greater Burlington Women's Forum recently gifted public performance rights license to the film Miss Representation to Burlington High School. The license provides a DVD, a curriculum, and rights for unlimited screenings at BHS, which means they can host public screenings, parent/teacher screenings, all-school screenings as well as use in the classroom in perpetuity.

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Senator Sanders' Town Meetings on Higher Education/Choral Concert

Town Meetings on Higher Education

February 16th, Lyndon State College – Moore Community Room/ASAC 100, 12 pm

February 17th, Johnson State College – Bentley Hall 207, 12 pm

February 17th, UVM – Davis Center, Frank Livak Room, 7 pm

The meetings bring together students and community members to discuss higher education in Vermont.

2nd Annual Vermont Student Choral Concert

March 14th, Montpelier High School, 6 pm

This concert features seven choruses from around the state highlighting the importance of the arts in education.

More info on Sen. Sanders' [Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) or [Bernie Buzz](#)

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Early Childhood Day at the Legislature

Wednesday, March 11th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm in Montpelier

Hosted by the Alliance, Let's Grow Kids and Building Bright Futures

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Paul Dworkin, addressing the interface between child development, child health services, and child health policy. Dr. Dworkin is the Executive Vice President for Community Child Health at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Founding Director of the Help Me Grow National Center, and professor of pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Look for registration details in future VIEWS or contact [Kelly Ault](#) for more information.

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Post your Photo for the Cost of Childcare Social Media Campaign

The [Let's Grow Kids Campaign](#) is currently supporting the formation of a [Blue Ribbon Commission](#) that will look at different ways to make high quality, affordable childcare a reality for all Vermonters. Science tells us how important it is that our youngest children have high-quality, early learning experiences to reach their full potential. Yet, we know that many Vermont providers struggle with the costs of providing quality childcare—and that turning to already financially-strapped parents is not the answer.

Help the campaign draw attention to the problem! [Click here](#) to participate in the Campaign's Cost of Childcare social media effort.

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Women's History Month Brownbag Lunch Event

Vermont History Museum, Pavilion Building, 109 State Street, Montpelier

Wednesday, March 11th, 2015 - Noon to 1

Come celebrate Women's History Month with us! Our annual brown bag lunch event will feature a panel discussion on women's history with: VCW Commissioner/Director of UVM's Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program/Associate Professor of History Dr. Felicia Kornbluh; Independent scholar and author Lyn Blackwell; and Holly Allen, Assistant Professor of American Studies at Middlebury College. Bring your lunch – we'll supply the drinks and dessert! Stay tuned to Vermont Public Radio for our week-long commentary series – more info [here](#).

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Equal Pay Day: April 14th, 2015

We'll be at the Vermont State House for this annual symbolic day in 2014 when women's earnings finally catch up to men's from 2014. Learn more about equal pay and other rights of Vermont workers [here](#) – our publication detailing workplace laws, including the latest: the right to request flexible working arrangements. Find out how Equal Pay for Working Women would reduce poverty and grow the American economy, read the [Institute for Women's Policy Research Briefing Paper here](#).

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Preventing Violence on Vermont College Campuses

Vermont college and university staff gathered in October at Vermont Technical College in Randolph for a two-hour focus group addressing how Vermont college campuses can integrate, sustain, and institutionalize domestic and sexual violence prevention. VCW staff participated in facilitating some discussion groups. This work was initiated in response to the recommendation of the Governor's Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force to "strengthen Vermont college campuses' response to prevention of domestic and sexual violence" (more on the Task Force below). Read the focus group summary [here](#).

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[Vermont Commission on Women \(VCW\)](#)

VIEW Message – [Vermont Information Exchange for Women](#)

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subject heading.