

VCW VIEW Message November 23rd

The VCW convenes two meetings a year centered on the work of our 25 Advisory Council organizations. This month's meeting focused on legislative priorities for these organizations. VCW's Advisory Council members are representatives of organizations whose interests align with the commission's mission. Members provide counsel to the Commission on setting goals, strategies and objectives, and share the opinions and perspectives of the organizations they represent. Read minutes from this meeting [here](#).

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Read 15 year old Strafford student Emma Bauer's piece, "Why I Need Feminism" published in conjunction with the Young Writers Project.

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Woman of Achievement: Marilyn Grunewald

Congratulations to Marilyn Grunewald, named Franklin County Business and Professional Women's Woman (BPW) of Achievement this month. Marilyn has held many positions in BPW, an organization promoting full participation, equity and economic self-sufficiency for working women through advocacy, education, and information. Marilyn has served as President of both her local and the state level BPW branch. In her professional life prior to retirement, she held many leadership positions in the workplace including Superintendent of Schools. In addition to her work with BPW she holds board positions for the St. Albans Historical Museum, Challenger Learning Center, Northwest Access TV, Women's 'We Can!' Conference, DKG, and actively participates as a mentor.

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Former **Lieutenant Governor and Senator Barbara Snelling**, wife of Gov. Richard Snelling, passed away on November 2nd. Barbara's life was celebrated at the State House by hundreds. [VT Digger](#) offers a glimpse of the celebration. Both Lt. Governor and Governor Snelling served on the Vermont Commission on Women.

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Read the latest from Vermont's Early Learning Challenge Grant [here](#).

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Rights & Democracy Summit: Building an Economy for People & the Planet

Saturday, December 5, from 9:00 am – 7:00 pm at Main Street Landing

Rights & Democracy's mission is to bring people together to make the values and needs of communities guide the policies of government. Join in skill-building workshops, policy trainings and guest speakers. Featuring a plenaries about Inequality and having a Moral Economy. **Learn more and register [here](#).**

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**Should Vermont Reduce Reliance on Incarceration as a Response to Criminal Conduct?
Public Forums on Incarceration Presented by Attorney General Sorrell**

Monday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Select board Room
171 Bridge Street, White River Junction

Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rutland Free Library – The Fox Room
10 Court Street, Rutland

Monday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the Burlington City Hall Contois Auditorium
149 Church Street, Burlington

Representatives from law enforcement, corrections and human services officials, prisoner rights groups, victim advocates, and others will join the Attorney General at the forums across Vermont in December to gather feedback about this issue. More info [here](#).

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Read about the 2016 legislative agenda of the Vermont Early Childhood Alliance [here](#).

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Let's Grow Kids launches new [website](#), featuring videos of Vermonters discussing their experiences with the early childhood system!

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Let's Grow Kids and 20 co-sponsors hosted 169 Vermonters at seven community forums this fall, focused on discussing challenges and solutions to providing high-quality, affordable day care. Read more about it and see the reports [here](#).

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Read **Hunger Free Vermont's** tips for providing nutritious food on a budget for care providers [here](#). Read **Vermont Child Nutrition Reauthorization Coalition's policy recommendations** on related issues [here](#).

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The Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care Meeting
December 17th from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care was established by the Vermont Legislature to determine the hallmarks of a quality child care program and recommend to the Legislature and Governor strategies to support affordable, quality child care in Vermont. Check the Commission's [temporary webpage](#) for updates on the meeting, such as location and agenda, as well as minutes and meeting handouts.

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Vermont has the lowest rate of uninsured children in the country, according to Annie. E. Casey Foundations 2015 Kids Count Data Book. According to the book, Vermont ranks number 5 for children's well-being. Learn more, view the data, and order a free copy of the data book here.

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The Center of Law and Policy (CLASP) recently launched a new website, EnforcingSickDays.org, providing state and local governments tools and resources to effectively implement earned sick days laws.

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A Vermont Student Assistance Corporation Special Report was released this month addressing highlights and challenges for Vermonters pursuing a **post-secondary education**.

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Check out **Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force's U Can Stop Traffick webpage and media campaign** raising awareness and about the intersection of sex and drug trafficking. Think it doesn't happen here? Read VT Digger's recent news story about two men accused of forcing women to travel from New York to Vermont to engage in prostitution here.

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GPS (Guidance, Positivity, & Support) by the Pride Center of Vermont

4th Saturdays from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm at Pride Center of Vermont, Burlington

A monthly, gently-facilitated mutual support group for folks of any identity (whether fully formed or a work in progress) who want to engage in meaningful conversations about gender, sexuality and sexual orientation, and/or the coming out process.

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Last Monday, the FBI released 2014 hate crime statistics. 15 hate crimes were reported in Vermont in 2014.

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Planned Parenthood's Story Slam & 50th Anniversary Party

December 1, 2015 at Higher Ground

Planned Parenthood offers five reasons to attend; Hear stories from former staff, board members, and patients about the impact Planned Parenthood made on their lives and why they stand with us; Mingle with and meet other PPNNE supporters; Enjoy tasty snacks, including cookies so adorable by that you might not want to eat them; Support PPNNE on #GivingTuesday, a national day to give back to your favorite local organizations.; Celebrate PPNNE's 50th anniversary: five decades of providing high quality, compassionate reproductive and sexual health care. More information and tickets are available here.

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VCW Advisory Council member, **American Association of University Women (AAUW)** offers the following recommendations for the next federal budget:

Promote education and economic security: AAUW strongly opposes cuts to the Pell Grant programs, which allow more than eight million low- and moderate-income students to attend and complete college.

Defend civil rights: AAUW urges the protection of Violence Against Women Act and Victims of Crime (VOCA) programs, which improve the system-wide response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In addition, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights needs increased resources to continue its vigorous work on Title IX.

Protect women's health: AAUW supports funding for the Title X Family Planning program and other federally funded preventive services that helped to avoid 2 million unintended pregnancies in 2013.

Reject ideological riders: This refers to provisions that relate to policy issues rather than funding allocations, and they threaten the strength of the budget agreement and risk government shutdown yet again. These poison pill riders include limiting women's access to health care and tying the hands of government enforcement agencies.

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An **American Association of University Women (AAUW)** analysis of data recently released by the U.S. Department of Education shows that **91 percent of college campuses reported zero incidents of rape in 2014**. Commenting on the analysis, Lisa M. Maatz, vice president of government relations at AAUW said "The data reported by the nation's colleges simply defy reality and commonsense. These numbers don't reflect campus climate surveys and academic research, let alone what we're hearing from students themselves." Under the **Clery Act**, American colleges and universities are required to disclose reported crimes on their campuses, including incidents of sexual assault. These annual safety reports are also required to include information about schools' training and prevention efforts to improve campus safety. **AAUW's analysis** of the 2014 data provides a further breakdown of the numbers, along with background on what the data say about schools that reported zero incidents of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The analysis also provides information about the new VAWA requirements and how to easily access the data, school by school. For the first time this year, because of new reporting requirements passed in the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA), campuses are now providing data on dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking in addition to rape statistics.

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Vermont Commission on Women (VCW)

VIEW Message – Vermont Information Exchange for Women
126 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05633-6801
800-881-1561

Website | Facebook | Twitter | NEW: VT Equal Pay Compact

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