



Founded by THE BUCKS COUNTY WOMEN'S FUND  
...a strategic alliance of A WOMAN'S PLACE

## News Release

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### BUCKS COUNTY WOMEN'S ADVOCACY COALITION RECEIVES CITATION



Nancy Morrill (President Emirata), Senator Chuck McIlhinney, Tam St. Claire (President),  
Kathy Beveridge (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Michele Fina (Cliff Effect Initiative committee)

The Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition, a non-partisan coalition of Bucks County individuals and numerous non-profit organizations that serve women and girls, received recognition from Senator Chuck McIlhinney (R-Bucks) for their advocacy of recently passed Senate Resolution 62 which Senator McIlhinney sponsored. The bound and signed copy of the resolution, given to the Coalition, directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study new approaches to family work support programs and find solutions to address the Cliff Effect.

The Cliff Effect refers to the sudden and complete ineligibility for subsidies, like food, child care, transportation or housing that low income families experience with even a minor rise in earnings. The loss of the subsidies means they have to see their families worse off or refuse the raise, decline the promotion, not accept the better paying job. This makes no sense for Pennsylvania taxpayers, families or our economy.

According to Tam St. Claire, President of the Coalition, "The Coalition is grateful for this recognition from Senator McIlhinney and thanks him and the other PA legislators who recognize that we have to do more to eliminate the cliff effect and poverty in PA. We are excited to continue working with Senator McIlhinney and other legislators in the Bucks County delegation and across the Commonwealth who see the wisdom of finding ways to tackle the fundamental problems of our systems that threaten the economic self-sufficiency of so many citizens of Pennsylvania."

"With many families living paycheck-to-paycheck and struggling to make ends meet, improving our strategies to help these individuals is critical," McIlhinney said. "State assistance programs for low-income families are intended to provide a clear path to self-sufficiency. This study will help lawmakers determine how we can help

these struggling families take the next step toward a better quality of life. I am grateful to the Coalition for their leadership on this issue.”

Organized in 2008 as an advocacy and education project of the Bucks County Women's Fund, the Coalition became in June 2011 a strategic alliance of A Woman's Place. Currently there are 100+ individual partners and 34 organizations partnering to speak with one voice about the systemic public and private reforms needed to foster economic self-sufficiency of Bucks County women and their families.

Learn more about the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition at [www.bcwac.com](http://www.bcwac.com), like us on Facebook and sign up for our blog.

Coalition representatives with Senator Chuck McIlhinney