

# NEWS



from  
**Paul  
Tsongas**

**U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

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TSONGAS TO REINTRODUCE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT IF RATIFICATION FAILS

Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas announced today his intention to reintroduce the Equal Rights Amendment in the Senate should ratification efforts fail by the July 1, 1982 deadline. A strong and vocal supporter of the Equal Rights amendment over the past decade, Tsongas said in a letter to colleagues that "the need for an Amendment is no less urgent today than it was in 1972, when the ratification process began."

"While there has been significant progress over the last ten years in ending discrimination against women, many of these advances have come in anticipation of passage of the Amendment." Tsongas stated. "To let this effort falter now would be disasterous."

Tsongas cited recent legislative, regulatory and legal efforts to limit affirmative action and Title IX, which would weaken the rights of women in the areas of employment and education.

Twenty-three Senators have co-signed the Dear Colleague letter with Tsongas. They are Senators Kennedy, Packwood, Dodd, Hatfield, Proxmire, Bradley, Stafford, Randolph, Moynihan, Metzenbaum, Eagleton, Jackson, Levin, Biden, Hart, Leahy, Chafee, Mathias, Glenn, Cranston and Weicker. Riegle and Sarbannes.

The Equal Rights Amendment has been ratified by 35 states. Three more states are needed. Those states who have not yet voted for ratification are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia.

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