

Statement of Rep. Paul Tsongas

August 15, 1978

It is my sincere hope that the House of Representatives today vote ~~favorably~~ ^X to extend the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. It took our male leaders more than 50 years to agree to the basic right of female suffrage. It is already more than 50 years since the ERA was first introduced in his body. ^R

~~we cannot~~ ^{MUST NOT} erect a barrier of time which would stop the progress we have already made in getting the ERA into our law. We must not let a stalled state ratification process prevent us from finally removing once and for all the social barriers which now keep ~~and~~ women from full participation in our society.

Our vote today can make that difference. It will assure that the movement continues so the ERA ~~will~~ ^{can} at long last, become the 27th Amendment.