

# NEWS

## Paul Tsongas CONGRESSMAN

5th District  
Massachusetts

Lowell  
Lawrence  
Lexington

50 Kearney Sq.  
469 Essex St.  
185 Bedford St.

For Immediate Release: August 15, 1978

Contact: Alice Lynn Booth 202-225-3411

### Tsongas Votes to Extend ERA Deadline

Rep. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) urged his colleagues to vote in favor of extending the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

In a statement submitted to the Congressional Record, Rep. Tsongas said "we 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 women from full participation in our society."

Tsongas noted that it took more than 50 years for the male leaders of this nation to agree to the basic right of female suffrage. "It is already more than 50 years since the ERA was first introduced in this body," he said.

Tsongas added: "Based upon the progress of the women's rights movement in recent years and the consensus of support for the ERA, I believe that ratification is inevitable. Our vote today can make that difference. It will assure that the movement continues so the ERA can, at long last, become the 27th Amendment."

###