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YWCA's Support Ratification of Newly Introduced Equal Rights Amendment

BERGEN COUNTY– The YWCA of Bergen County, in partnership with the 32 Local Associations that make up the Northeast Regional Council of YWCAs, is heralding the re-introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment by New York Congressional Representative Carolyn Maloney. The YWCA, which has a long history of supporting the elimination of racism and the empowerment of women, is calling for the ratification of the ERA.

Monica Roers, Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA of Bergen County, says, "This recent legislative action is long overdue. I encourage our community to contact their legislators and urge them to support of its passage."

The Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in 1923 and has seen many years of debate. The amendment requires that both the United States House of Representatives and the Senate pass the bill by a two thirds majority and 38 states ratify the act in order for it to become the next amendment to the United States Constitution. During the early 1970's this important bill of women's rights almost became law, but a change in the political environment stalled the effort.

The YWCA of Bergen County and all of the YWCAs of the Northeast Region are hopeful that those in elected office will finally do the right thing and ratify the ERA. Carole Coppins, the Northeast Regional Advocacy Committee Chair and member of the YWCA's National Coordinating Board, says, "The time to pass this amendment is long over due. Women have been far too patient in their quest to gain constitutional equality. Without the Equal Rights Amendment women still do not have a definite constitutional guarantee to equal protection. "

About the YWCA of Bergen County

The YWCA of Bergen County is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. We are the area's largest provider of child care services, a recognized leader in health and fitness programs, and operator of the county's only Rape Crisis Center. Celebrating nearly a century of

commitment to our community, today we improve the lives of thousands of women, girls, and their families. For more information, visit www.ywcabergencounty.org.

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