

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003
November 12, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND WOMEN'S LIBERATION DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

The recent defeats of the state Equal Rights Amendments in New York and New Jersey are a setback for the women's liberation movement. Supporters of the ERA all around the country will be discussing why the defeats happened and what we can do to defend and ensure ratification of the ERA.

We want to do everything that we can to turn around this defeat and spur renewed efforts and activities on a national scale, in support of the ERA.

This means that we need to explain why the ERA was defeated, what was wrong with the strategy adopted by the major pro-ERA coalitions in New York and New Jersey, and what type of action is needed to get the ERA ratified. The points raised in the Camejo-Reid statement in the November 14 issue of the Militant need to be explained and re-explained as broadly as possible.

This can be done by articles in the campus press, in forums, panels on the campuses, in women's liberation meetings, and by our candidates.

It's possible that these defeats will spark broad discussion among supporters of the ERA about what has to be done to turn this setback around. The basis may exist for calling meetings to discuss what we can do to defend and win ratification of the ERA in 1976. We should attend and be part of any such meetings. In some areas we may want to call such meetings through campus women's liberation groups, ERA coalitions, NOW, or CLUW.

In states where the ERA has already been ratified or where state ERAs have been adopted, we do not want to sit idly by. The fight to ratify the ERA is a national fight. Just as the women's liberation movement refused to fight for abortion rights on a state-by-state basis, we think that the ERA should not only be fought on a state-by-state basis. A national effort is needed to ratify the ERA.

In states where the ERA has been ratified, we may be able to organize panels, forums, or campus talks around such topics as "How to Win Equal Rights for Women." We can check out the possibilities of other organizations sponsoring such activities with us. We can have our candidates speak on the ERA, and get articles into the campus press. The ERA materials distributed

by the national campaign committee will be helpful in this.

The defeats in New York and New Jersey have given impetus to the anti-ERA groups. In both states, they have announced that they will try to have the ratification of the federal ERA rescinded. These threats -- and the fact that two states have already voted to rescind -- mean that no state is "safe."

Locals should keep the national office informed of all meetings, discussions, or coalitions that develop in their area around the ERA.

Comradely,

Nancy Brown

Nancy Brown
Women's Liberation Director