

Press Release
For Immediate Release
Florida National Organization for Women

March 16, 2008

Contact: Jessica McCaffrey, FLNOW President
1-800-299-1710
www.FLNOW.org
Email: president@flnow.org

Florida NOW Cheers Introduction of Equal Rights Amendment; *Women in the Constitution* is Way Past Due

Tallahassee, Florida March 17, 2008 - The Florida National Organization for Women (NOW) welcomes the reintroduction of the Equal Rights Amendment and the renewal of the national dialogue on constitutional equality for women. We commend the dedication of Senator Gwen Margolis (Sponsor SCR 362) and Representative Juan-Carlos Planas (Sponsor HCR 8001) to achieving constitutional equality.

Women need a constitutional equality amendment to counter the recent attacks against women and the advances we have made. As we look to federal courts, where conservative ideologues now dominate judicial thought and action, progressive leaders must stimulate debate among our elected representatives, women's rights advocates and the public-at-large on the meaning of equal protection for the sexes under the law. "Consider the so-called "strict constructionists" appointed to the court under the Bush administration – the constitution does not guarantee our equality and a strict constructionist will ensure that women's rights are denied" said Jessica McCaffrey, president, Florida NOW, "An Equal Rights Amendment is necessary because, without it, we simply don't have equality."

What: FL NOW Press Conference

RE: *Women in the Constitution... Way Past Due!*
Florida NOW calls for Marco Rubio and Ken Pruitt to request that these bills be put on the agenda in the Senate and the House immediately.

Location: Waller Park Courtyard, Florida State Capital, Tallahassee
(Area facing the Supreme Court and Duval Street)

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Contacts:
Jessica McCaffrey, Florida NOW President
Direct phone: 904.945.1788
Email: president@flnow.org

Michelle Knight, Florida NOW Legislative Director
Direct phone: 904.742.8168
Email: legislative@flnow.org

Jessica Lowe, Florida NOW Lobbyist
Direct phone: 850.228.3646
Email: lobbyist@flnow.org