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National Organization for Women Endorses Carolyn Maloney for Clinton Senate Seat NOW-NYC Urges Governor Paterson to Select Maloney, an Advocate for Women

New York, New York – December 4, 2008 - The National Organization for Women (NOW) Political Action Committee and the Feminist Majority Political Action Committee announce today their endorsement of New York Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney for appointment to the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Sonia Ossorio, president of NOW-NYC, has worked with Congresswoman Maloney on issues ranging from human trafficking to pay equity. Maloney has authored and passed key legislation from expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act to the Debbie Smith Act for processing of DNA evidence/rape kits; she has a 100 percent rating from the Children's Defense Fund; is a leader on reproductive issues in the U.S. and internationally; and is a leader in the fight to end gender apartheid in Afghanistan.

“She is a champion for women,” Ossorio said. “After eight years of an administration that worked to roll back rights for women, Congresswoman Maloney doubled her efforts to fight for women’s rights. She has been a forceful voice and a very effective advocate for women in New York City and across the country.”

“Governor Paterson would be doing a great service to the women and families of New York by selecting Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney to fill the important role being vacated by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton,” Ossorio said. “This is a natural fit. Both women are steadfast leaders for women and their families.”

With only 16 women out of 100 senators, the women of New York, the nation and the world need Carolyn Maloney's determination, tenacity, creativity and keen legislative skills to address the countless issues facing women, workers and families. In the New York City Council, where Maloney served for 10 years, there are only 16 out of 51 women in leadership. At the state level, only 35 out of 150 members of the State Assembly are women. In the state Senate, women hold only 12 out of 62 seats.

“The lack of women in leadership positions in New York is glaring. Governor Paterson is well aware of this and has made a commitment to changing it. He can start now by appointing Carolyn Maloney,” Ossorio said.

The National Organization for Women is the nation’s largest organization working to advance women’s rights and improve women’s lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is the largest chapter in the country with over 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to protect women’s reproductive choices, end violence against women and eliminate sex discrimination in our schools, workplaces, and the justice system in New York.