



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOW-NYC Urges a Thorough Investigation of Governor Paterson's Administration *Facts revealed so far are extremely troubling*

New York, NY, February 25, 2010 – The National Organization for Women's New York City Chapter urges Attorney General Andrew Cuomo to conduct a thorough and comprehensive investigation of the conduct of Governor Paterson and his administration.

“We don't know all the facts about what happened here,” said Jane Manning, President of NOW-NYC, “but the facts that we do know are extremely troubling.”

State Police superintendent Harry J. Corbitt has acknowledged that a State Police officer—whose department had no jurisdiction in the case—met with a woman who was seeking an order of protection after alleged physical abuse by Paterson's high-ranking aide David Johnson. The woman reported in court that the state police were pressuring her to drop her case. The governor's spokesperson has also admitted that the governor himself was in touch with the victim, the day before her scheduled court appearance—at which she then did not appear.

“It is hard to imagine a legitimate explanation for what happened here,” Manning said. “If in fact state police officers and perhaps even the governor were trying to influence a crime victim not to pursue a court case, the misconduct involved would be extremely serious.”

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 one of the largest chapters in the country with 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.

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