

Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon

310 SENATOR BLDG., PORTLAND 97204
TELEPHONE 227-3186 (AREA CODE 503)



Dear Friend:

The regular 1973 session of the Oregon Legislature enacted some significant gains for women's rights. Much of the credit for these gains belongs to the Equal Rights Alliance and its concerned supporters who contributed both time and money to its legislative efforts.

As you may recall, the Alliance was formed in late 1972 by representatives of the ACLU of Oregon, the Governor's Committee on the Status of Women, the Oregon Council for Women's Equality, the Oregon Women's Political Caucus, and the Portland Chapter of NOW. The purpose of the Alliance was to coordinate the legislative efforts of all of these groups in working for sexual equality.

This year, the Alliance has changed its name and become part of the Women's Rights Project of the ACLU of Oregon. The reason for this change is to provide the Alliance with office space, office equipment, telephone lines and limited assistance from the ACLU Executive Director, Stevie Remington. While receiving these benefits, the Alliance will remain free to solicit, receive and expend its own funds. This "merger" will not change either the purposes of or the participants in the Alliance, but should make it a more effective organization.

Despite our new association with the ACLU, we still very much need the continued financial support of you and other individuals who are our sole source of revenue.

In 1973, the Alliance raised enough money to hire (at starvation wages) a full-time lobbyist, Gretchen Kafoury. With her able assistance, we succeeded in obtaining ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; passage of one of the country's most comprehensive laws prohibiting sex and marital discrimination in admission to certain vocational and trade schools, housing, credit, insurance, and other forms of public accommodation; additional funding in the amount of \$50,000 for the Bureau of Labor for enforcing affirmative action programs in state agencies; and repeal of a statute which required married women insurance agents to have their husbands bonded.

Other Alliance proposals met with failure, and we have added these to our "to be accomplished list" for 1975, which includes the following:

1. Passage of a name change bill providing that upon marriage, either party may continue to use her/his previous name; and upon dissolution of marriage, the court shall, upon request, restore to a woman who has adopted her husband's name, her maiden name;

2. Passage of a bill assuring every woman the right to establish a domicile separate from that of her husband. At present, a married woman assumes her husband's domicile, so that, for example, a woman who is an Oregon domiciliary and married to a man who resides in Oregon but is domiciled elsewhere (such as a student) loses her status as an Oregon domiciliary even though she continues to live here;

3. Revision of the Oregon rape laws to prohibit admissibility of evidence of the victim's prior sexual conduct unless the conduct is with the defendant, and then only after an in camera determination by the judge that the evidence is relevant;

4. Support of the Bureau of Labor's request for additional funding and for legislation prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of marital status and providing a private right of action for employment discrimination;

5. Support of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women's bill to provide legislative funding to the Commission;

6. Support of legislative action to eliminate sex discrimination in education;

7. Passage of legislation to guarantee female prisoners equal access to vocational, recreational and educational programs available to male prisoners;

Each of these issues should be of vital concern to you, whether it affects you directly or indirectly, as a supporter of equal rights for all persons.

Unfortunately, we cannot accomplish our goals without funds with which to hire a lobbyist and communicate with our supporters. Please help us by pledging your support on the enclosed form and returning it in the enclosed envelope.

THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROJECT OF
THE ACLU OF OREGON, by

Paul A. Smith

WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROJECT OF THE
[ACLU] OF OREGON
310 Senator Building
Portland, Oregon 97204

I enclose a contribution in the amount of \$ _____.

I pledge to contribute \$ _____ per month during the legislative session, payable on or before the 15th of each month.

I am unable to contribute money, but would like to help with lobbying efforts in the area of _____
_____.

Name: _____

Address: _____
