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Seneca Falls Historical Society
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STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

In New York State, we hold dear a simple truth: we are one community. We share each other's benefits and burdens. When all of us do not have the same rights and privileges, we must stand up for one another, because it means that each one of us is lowered. Many movements for equal rights and justice have been born in New York because it is who we are and what we live, and it sends a clear message to the world that this is what America is supposed to be. The women's suffrage movement that began in Seneca Falls embodies this unyielding pursuit of fairness, and set a precedent that continues to this day: New Yorkers simply do not settle for less.

In the 100 years since women gained the right to vote in New York State – three years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment – we have come a long way. However, there is still work to do, and New York will continue to lead the way. We will not turn the clock back on reproductive rights, and we will not allow the important progress of the women's movement to be stopped. As Governor, I have worked to expand rights and protections for women, including measures to end gender discrimination in workplaces, protect young women against sexual assault on college campuses, and provide paid family leave for working families. In New York, we know that women's rights are human rights. Each one of us has benefitted from the milestones achieved by generations of women who actively crusaded against injustice.

As the father of three daughters, I am grateful to the women and men from New York and across the nation who worked tirelessly for suffrage and women's rights. As a human being, I am humbled by their sacrifices and their conviction that we are all equal. As a New Yorker, I am proud of their legacy, and the important lessons we can learn from them still today: none of us are bystanders to history. We can and must take charge. We must address injustices, we must persist, and we must protect these hard-won rights.

The spirit of the women who dedicated their lives to earning the right to vote, many of whom did not live to see their triumph over discrimination, lives on in New Yorkers to this day. We will continue to hold the torch high for people of every gender, religion, background, and sexual orientation, reaching ever upward in the fight for equality and justice for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew M. Cuomo".

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

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PERFORMANCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ PRIDE

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