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**U.S. Representative**

***John Spratt***

South Carolina ■ 5th District

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**News Release**

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May 17, 2000, For Immediate Release

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**Spratt Introduces Historic Women's Colleges Bill**

*Legislation would channel historic preservation funds to Winthrop University*

**WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) today joined in the introduction of legislation to fund the preservation and restoration of buildings at seven historically women's public colleges and universities, including Winthrop University, in Rock Hill, South Carolina. If the bill becomes law, each school could receive up to \$2 million in federal funds every year from 2001-2005.**

“These schools were pioneers in the education of women, and helped to raise the plane of education for everyone because they educated our teachers,” said Spratt. “They also never received as much funding as other state universities. In a small way, this bill will help make up for that.”

The bill, entitled the *Historic Women's Colleges & Universities Building Preservation Act*, covers seven schools founded between 1884 and 1908. Originally, they were designed to prepare teachers and provide vocational education for women who, at the time, could not attend other state institutions. The schools are now coeducational, but retain historical and academic features from their early efforts to educate women. All have historic buildings in need of restoration.

Winthrop President Anthony DiGiorgio applauded the legislation. “This program can help insure that the architectural legacy of Winthrop University is preserved in a way consistent with our values while still serving the contemporary needs of today's students. We appreciate the federal leadership that is making this initiative possible,” DiGiorgio said.

In addition to Winthrop, the schools named by the bill are the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC; Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, GA; the University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL; Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, MS; Texas Women's University, Denton, TX; and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha, OK.

“I would like to think that we could pass the bill this year, and we will aim for that,” said Spratt. “But bills like this usually take time to gather support. Seven states have a stake in this bill, and the congressional delegation in each will be pushing to get the bill through the House and Senate. I think it's a great idea, I hope that we can sell the idea to others, and I'm delighted be one of those introducing the bill today.”

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