Resolution to Affirm the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment

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BACKGROUND

The Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced 100 years ago to codify gender equality in the United States Constitution. Since 1923, the constitutional amendment was introduced in every session of Congress until it passed in 1972 in both the House and Senate. Congress then placed an arbitrary seven-year deadline on the state ratification process before extending the deadline to 1982, but only 35 states ratified the ERA before the arbitrary deadline. However, with the recent ratifications of the ERA by Nevada in 2017, Illinois in 2018 and Virginia in 2020, the 38 states needed for certification of the ERA to be become the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has now been reached.

The House Joint Resolution to Affirm the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment expressly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the U.S. Constitution and removes the deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The Equal Rights Amendment simply states: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex.” It would affirm women’s equality in our Constitution, enshrining the principle of women’s equality and an explicit prohibition against sex discrimination in the nation’s foundational document.

RESOLUTION

This resolution takes a critical step toward ensuring the ERA officially becomes part of our Constitution and removes the arbitrary deadline. As the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the ERA would:

- Give women a key tool in the legal arsenal to combat everyday discrimination women face, including pay discrimination, pregnancy discrimination, and sexual and domestic violence.
- Provide a single, national baseline protection against sex discrimination across the country; and
- Apply the most rigorous judicial review to laws and government policies that discriminate against women and it would ensure that laws or policies that are inconsistent with equality for women be struck down.

ENDORSERS:
