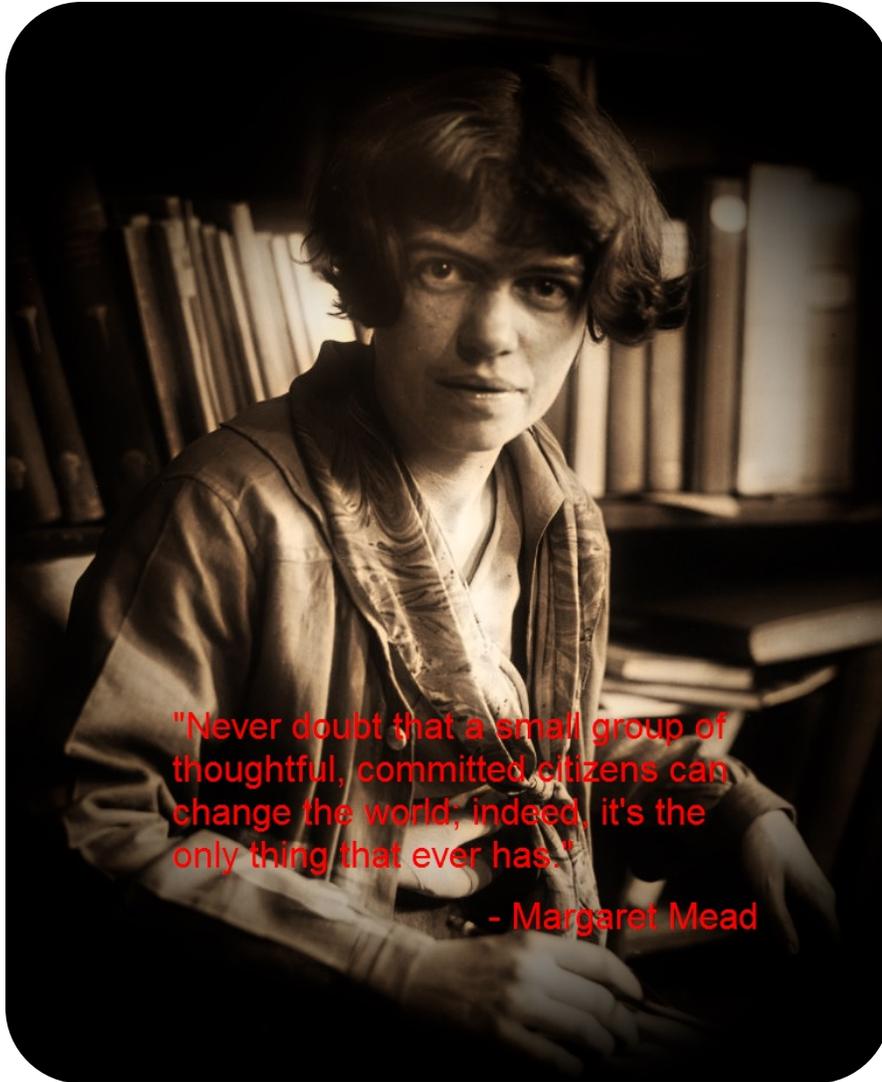


Let's Pass the Equal Rights Amendment Educational and Advocacy Pack



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead



Let's Pass the Equal Rights Amendment
Educational and Advocacy Pack
Hélène de Boissière Swanson, Founder Katrina's Dream
August 26, 2018

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I. Introduction

Since 1923, when the “Lucretia Mott Amendment” crafted by Crystal Eastman and Alice Paul and then later became known as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), it has been introduced into every session of Congress to this present day. On March 22, 1973, the United States Congress adopted a resolution to amend the U.S. Constitution to provide equal rights for men and women. The 1972 United States Senate voted on H.J. Res. 2008 was 84 to eight. The House had already approved of the resolution in 1971 by a vote of 354 to 24. In order for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to become part of our constitution it required that three fourths of the states, a total of 38, must ratify the amendment.

At the beginning of 1979, 35 states had rapidly ratified the amendment. Then process stalled out. Following the passage in 1992 of the “Madison Amendment”, which took no less than 203 years to be ratified, the introduction of the “Three State Strategy” legislation in our U.S. Congress has resultant in significant resurgence on both the state and federal level and in society. Both S.J. Res. 5 and H.J. Res. 52 remove the Congressionally imposed deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, so that if the bill passes Congress, the states will have no deadline as they did in 1982.

On March 22, 2017, 45 years to the day after Congress passed the ERA, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the ERA in the 21st Century. On May 30, 2018, Illinois followed suit becoming the 37th state to ratify. Leaving only one more state to ratify.

ERA bills have also been introduced in the legislatures across the country Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Utah, and Virginia. Leaving only one more state to ratify.

Women and human rights proponents argue that the Equal Rights Amendment is needed because discrimination on the “the basis of sex” is firmly imbedded in our legal system. It is their position that any system of dual rights and responsibilities lead to one group’s dominance. Ones’ sex and or gender identification is not a permissible factor in determining women and human rights that such classification denies individual rights.

ERA proponents state that at present, state and federal legislation has not eliminated sexual discrimination in many aspects of life and varies from state to state costing million in tax dollars to address the systemic issues arising from inequality under the law of the sexes. A constitutional amendment would provide the necessary mandate for legislation in litigation. The Equal Rights Amendment is both a symbolic and a practical instrument for change.

II LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- a. Katrina's Dream
- b. League of Women Voters – Chillicothe Ross (Ohio)
- c. Nevada's for Equal Rights
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KATRINA'S DREAM

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

THE FULL INCLUSION OF WOMEN
IN THE CHURCH AND IN SOCIETY

ON JANUARY 2, 1942, AT THE BEGINNING OF A GHASTLY WAR THIS PICTURE WAS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF NEWSPAPERS AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE HEADLINE: LITTLE GIRL MEETS ROOSEVELT AND CHURCHILL. HOWEVER, KATRINA WAS TELLING EVERYONE, "I MET MRS. ROOSEVELT ON MY BIRTHDAY!"

August 26, 2018

Honorable Senators of the U.S. Senate

Honorable Representatives of the U.S. House of Representatives

United States Capitol

East Capitol St NE & First St SE

Washington, DC 20004

Dear Honorable U.S. Senators and Representatives:

As founder of Katrina's Dream, I follow in the steps of my late mother-in-law, The Rev. Katrina Martha Van Alstyne Welles Swanson. She dreamed like many before her of an America that would welcome her all people with Equal Rights. In the many conversations during her last sixteen months, she knew that the county she loved would one day treat all people with dignity with respect and that all would be equal.

On March 8th, 2017 I embarked on a pilgrimage covering the then 15 states that had yet to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. On that quest for equality it was my privilege to talk with numerous people across these United States – from U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators in their district offices to groups in bars and coffee shops to folks alongside the roads as I traveled over 7,000 miles from San Francisco, California to our nation's capital in Washington, D.C. The pilgrimage is cited in the 2015 Nevada Legislative Record as being the inspiration to moving Nevada to ratify. Nevada ratified on March 22, 2017. A year later on May 30, 2018, Illinois ratified. Leaving just one more state to ratify.

I can speak for a large number of Americans, both the living and the dead, *a cloud of witnesses* who have been waiting for the Equal Rights Amendment to be ratified by one more state and become a part of our U.S. Constitution.

It is over 150 years since brave Americans gathered in Seneca Falls, New York to demand an equality denied women then and to great shame is still denied all people today. Their unfulfilled words are engraved there on a marble wall:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed."

It is my great honor to ask that you remove the deadline so that all are equal.

Love and Light in Christ, and Shalom,

Hélène de Boissière Swanson

Hélène de Boissière Swanson, Co-Founder

Katrina's Dream





Chillicothe-Ross League of Women Voters

Making Democracy Work!

August 26, 2018

Members of The United States Congress

United States Capitol

Washington, District of Columbia 20004

Dear Honorable Congress Member:

Sex discrimination is not illegal under national law in the United States. This travesty must change immediately by ratifying the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment (E.R.A.).

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) recommitted to the ratification of the E.R.A. at the national convention in Chicago in June 2018. It was “resolved that the LWVUS supports an emphasis on the E.R.A. this year and every year until the E.R.A. is ratified and becomes a U.S. Constitutional Amendment” and “...supports efforts to remove the time limit for ratification of the E.R.A.”

We ask that you support the joint resolutions in the U.S. Congress “Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment” by co-sponsoring and then reaching out to your colleagues to do the same. Additionally, we ask you to call for hearings on this crucial legislation. Most importantly, we ask your pledge of a YES vote when the resolutions come to the floor.

Now is the time to finally amend the U. S. Constitution to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. The 1972 E.R.A. would accomplish this and we call on you do all in your power to ensure it becomes the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Sincerely,

Chillicothe/Ross League of Women Voters

Nevadans for the ERA



“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

August 22, 2018

Honorable Senators of the U.S. Senate
Honorable Representatives of the U.S. House of Representatives
United States Capitol
East Capitol St NE & First St SE
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Honorable U.S. Senators and Representatives:

As the lead grassroots organizer in Nevada from 2014-2017 for Nevada’s ratification of the U.S. Equal Rights Amendment (while I was a Political Science and Sociology mid-career student at the University of Nevada, Reno and later, a dual degree graduate), I and many other Nevadans jointly worked to gain the support of several prominent Nevada political leaders and organizations who agreed with the merits of the Equal Rights Amendment and shared their support for the State of Nevada’s ratification through various actions such as university events, press interviews, legislative testimony, organizational announcements, public rally participation, colleague discussions, etc. These supporters included, but were not limited to:

Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval	American Assoc. of University Women - Capital Branch
Former U.S. Senator Harry Reid	League of Women Voters of Nevada
U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto	NAACP - Reno/Sparks Branch
U.S. Representative Dina Titus	Nevada Women’s Lobby
U.S. Representative Jacky Rosen	Nevada Women’s History Project

We Equal Rights Amendment organizers and supporters succeeded in achieving Nevada ratification by 1) first obtaining the agreement and leadership of the Honorable Nevada Senator Pat Spearman to introduce Senate Joint Resolution 16 in 2015 and then Senate Joint Resolution 2 in 2017, and by 2) helping secure legislative passage of S.J. Res. 2 with the support of many cosponsors on March 22, 2017 which was exactly 45 years to the day after overwhelming passage by Congress in 1972.

We the public—and all the supporting legislators and organizations—who worked so hard on Nevada ratification are now expectant of our U.S. Congress to consequently pass **Senate Joint Resolution 5** or related bill **House Joint Resolution 53** which are joint resolutions “ **Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.**” Passage of such a resolution is especially merited after Nevada’s ratification followed by the State of Illinois’ ratification as well on May 30, 2018. With the immediate timeliness that the matter of ratification now requires, please therefore join in 1) cosponsoring either resolution, 2) advocating and calling for hearings on the resolutions, and 3) voting for the resolution in your chamber of Congress.

Thank you on behalf of Nevadans and my fellow Americans across this United States of America,
Janette Dean
Equal Rights Advocate and Organizer - Nevada & National
Now residing at: 103 N. Gjere Avenue, Townhouse #5, Caledonia, MN 55921 (507) 725-3012

1923

Equal Rights Amend

1923 is an organization with the mission to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. 1923 has several hundred members in twenty states working towards our mission, and we partner with several other organizations that share our mission.

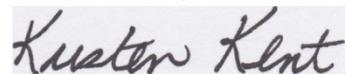
The proposed Equal Rights Amendment is simple: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

When ratified, the Equal Rights Amendment will provide constitutional authority to prohibit discrimination based on sex. Although there are local, state, and federal laws that prohibit sex discrimination, these laws are narrow and can easily be overturned compared to a constitutional amendment.

The Equal Rights Amendment will help improve the varying interpretations of sex discrimination laws by courts. Currently courts use "intermediate scrutiny" for sex discrimination, evaluating if there is a "substantial relationship" to an "important government purpose." With the Equal Rights Amendment courts would use "strict scrutiny," which would require that laws be "narrowly tailored" to achieve a "compelling government interest," and must be the "least restrictive means" of doing so.

Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in 2017. Illinois became the 37th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in May 2018. We are on track for the final state to ratify in 2019. Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment at the federal level would help make the Equal Rights Amendment part of our Constitution. We appreciate support in making the Equal Rights Amendment the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Respectfully,



Kristen Kent, MD
Founder, 1923

III SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- a. Unfinished Business for the Constitution
- b. The Maria Shriver Report: Figures and Facts Sheet (2014)
- c. 2018 National Organization for Women Resolution A
- d. Katrina's Dream Part 1
- e. Katrina's Dream Part 2

The Equal Rights Amendment

Unfinished Business for the Constitution

FULL AMENDMENT TEXT

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

KEY POINTS

- The most recent amendment to the Constitution, added in 1992, is the 27th Amendment which finally became an amendment after 203 years (it had been introduced in 1789 with no deadline). It delays Congressional salary changes from taking effect until the next term. As a result, many resolutions to rescind the ERA's unnecessary 1982 deadline have been made in Congress with more on the way.
- Congress passed the ERA on March 22, 1972 after annual efforts since 1923, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of 50 states (38) were then needed to ratify it. In the 18th and 19th centuries, amendments were not given ratification deadlines nor does the Constitution require a deadline. The original ERA ratification deadline was 1979, only seven years. During that time, ratification by 35 of 50 states was achieved, however, due to momentous support: 33 states ratified within just two years and an additional two by 1977. Congress then passed a three-year deadline extension to 1982 (in response to a seven-year extension request), but no additional states succeeded within those three years and state efforts mainly paused until this new century.
- The remaining states that have not yet ratified the ERA are: the two Western states of Arizona and Utah, some Southern states, and the Midwest states of Missouri. Note: The states of Texas, Wyoming, and Montana who share similarities with Nevada have already ratified the ERA.
- The Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment only allows "intermediate scrutiny" in sex discrimination cases, NOT the "strict scrutiny" that the ERA would require like other basic rights in the constitution. In addition, although 22 states have their own ERA laws, they are not always applied properly due to the lack of an ERA at the federal level.

— THE **SHRIVER** REPORT —
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★ *Special Edition*

WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO WHO WE WORK WITH **DONATE**

Education + Family + Health + Men + Money + Work

Special Report
A WOMAN'S NATION PUSHES BACK FROM THE BRINK

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TSR Special Report: A
Woman's Nation Pushes Back
From The Brink

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A Woman's Nation Pushes Back from the Brink: Facts and Figures

01.12.2014

- One in three women in America are living in poverty or teetering on its brink. That's 42 million women plus the 28 million children who depend on them.
- The American family has changed. Today, only one in five families has a homemaker mom and working dad. Two out of three families depend on the wages of working moms who are struggling to balance caregiving and breadwinning.
- The average woman continues to be paid 77 cents for every dollar the average man earns. The average African American woman earns only 64 cents and the average Latina only 55 cents compared to white men.
- Closing the wage gap between men and women would cut the poverty rate in half for working women and their families and would add nearly half a trillion dollars to the national economy.
- Women are nearly two-thirds of minimum-wage workers, and a vast majority of these workers receive no paid sick days. Not one.
- More than half of the babies born to women under the age of 30 are born to unmarried mothers, most of them white.
- Nearly two-thirds of Americans and 85 percent of Millennials believe that government should adapt to the reality of single-parent families and use its resources to help children and mothers succeed, regardless of family status.
- An overwhelming 96 percent of single mothers say paid leave is the workplace policy that would help them most, and nearly 80 percent of all Americans say the government should expand access to high-quality, affordable child care.
- Women living on the brink overwhelmingly regret not making education a bigger priority.
- The trauma and chronic stress of poverty are toxic to children, making them two and a half times more likely to suffer as adults from COPD, hepatitis, and depression.

Be an Architect of Change.



2018 National NOW Resolutions

A – PASSED 7/8/18

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PASSAGE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL JOINT RESOLUTIONS TO REPEAL THE ARBITRARY RATIFICATION DEADLINES FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, Congress first passed a ratification deadline of 1979 for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and later extended that deadline to 1982; and

WHEREAS, 37 states of the required 38 states have already ratified the ERA; and

WHEREAS, the current 115th Congress has before it, Senate Joint Resolution 5 (SJ Res 5) and House Joint Resolution 53 (HJ Res 53) to repeal the arbitrary ratification deadlines for the ERA; and

WHEREAS, elimination of the ratification deadlines will reduce legal arguments against the ERA once it is ratified by all 38 states; and

WHEREAS, Congress accepted, after 203 years, the 27th amendment (Madison Amendment) on Congressional pay raises;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) work for the passage of HJ Res 53 and SJ Res 5 or their subsequent versions in future Congresses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW recommit our support of the ERA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW accomplish this by:

- targeting and helping the last state to ratify the ERA,
- working to elect those supportive of the ERA in Congress,
- opposing any Supreme Court nominee not supportive of rescinding the ratification deadline of the ERA; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW, its state and local chapters, and their members, will commit to prioritizing and working to ratify the ERA for ourselves, and future generations.

Submitted by Committee: Constitutional Equality and Emerging Issues

Co-chair: Terry Sanders

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH AND IN SOCIETY

PART I : KATRINA'S STORY THE REV. KATRINA MARTHA VAN ALSTYNE WELLES SWANSON

On January 2, 1942, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor the United States of America joined as an Allied Power in a ghastly war, this picture was on the [front page of newspapers](#) around the world with the caption: Little Girl Meets Roosevelt & Churchill.



However, Katrina was telling everyone, **“I met Mrs. Roosevelt on my birthday!”** Mrs. Roosevelt is just behind Churchill. This young feminist picked the winner out of the pack she met on January first! However, as the daughter, grand-daughter, and great grand daughter of traditional minded

Anglo-Catholic priests and bishops, she accepted the fact that if she had been a boy she would have become a priest. But as a woman she planned to be a social worker.

Working in Botswana, Africa, Katrina, her husband George, and their sons Olof and William often stayed with Mrs. Lekgaba, a business woman and church leader when the Swansons visited Sabinas. Mrs. Lekgaba came from a clerical family like Katrina: Her father and brother were priests in Rhodesia. She ran a fleet of large British lorries which moved passengers and goods throughout her district on the edge of the Kalahari Desert. Although she was the de facto pastor and leader of the Anglican congregation in her town, the Anglican Church would not allow women to lead any public worship. They had to hire abusive, alcoholic men to lead their prayer services.

After returning home, Katrina began to see that God must want women to be priests, as well as men.

She called her father to make an appointment. “When does my daughter need an appointment to see me?” “I need an appointment for this.

She told him that she believed she had a vocation to priesthood. Katrina had no idea how he would receive the news. He had been a leader among traditional clergy and laity who defeated the proposed merger with the Presbyterian Church in the 1940’s. His grandfather, the first Bishop Edward Randolph Welles, had encouraged the building of cathedrals across the country, welcomed Episcopal monks and nuns, and helped write the Chicago Lambeth Quadrilateral defining traditional Episcopal and Anglican requirements for any future church unions. Her father surprised her by saying he had approved of women’s ordination since reading “Women and Holy Orders” by Charles Raven in 1928. Katrina and George republished Raven’s book in 1975.



One of the “Philadelphia Eleven,” Katrina and her father helped organize the 1974 irregular ordination of the first eleven women priests in the Episcopal Church USA. Katrina’s seventeen year bilingual ministry as rector of St. John’s Parish in Union City, New Jersey, was an uphill struggle filled with love. She celebrated the Eucharist bilingually in Spanish and English and founded and led a bilingual afterschool program for over a hundred children ages 5 to 18. She served on the board of a hospital and a homeless shelter. Katrina retired to Manset, Maine in 1996.

After being diagnosed with inoperable colonic cancer Katrina was cared for by Hospice at home in Manset during her sixteen month illness. She looked forward to the other side of death.

Her college roommate, Jean Maryborn, said, “For years you have taught us how to live. Now you are teaching us how to die.”

She told friends of the eight books that “have influenced the way I live my life.” They are: “A Town Like Alice” by Nevil Shute, “Black Elk Speaks” by John Neihardt, “Man’s Search for Meaning” by Victor Frankl, “The Healing Light” by Agnes Sanford, “The Hiding Place” by Corrie ten Boom, “The House of Prayer” by Florence Converse, “The Power and the Glory” by Graham Greene, and “The White Witch” by Elizabeth Goudge.

In the year before her death Katrina and her daughter-in-law, Hélène Patricia nee Carpenter de Boissière-Swanson, spoke often about the absence of women’s rights under U.S. law. Like Alice Paul, Katrina and Hélène knew women’s rights would only be realized in U.S. law by amending the U.S. Constitution.

Katrina died peacefully while a hurricane bearing her name was showing Americans how much liberty and justice poor folk had in New Orleans and in America. She had learned this years before. When the Equal Rights Amendment failed to pass, Katrina realized that she was a second class citizen like every other woman in America.

Her 17 years as an inner city Episcopal priest taught her that poverty limited how much liberty and justice one could get. In the Pledge of Allegiance Katrina always said, “With Liberty and Justice for Some.

Justice was important in her family. Her great great uncle had been run out of antebellum Vicksburg for preaching abolition. Her grandfather founded an inner city mission in Cincinnati and was later run out of Chelsea, Oklahoma for giving Holy Communion to a Black priest at the altar rail.

Hélène de Boissière-Swanson, William Gaines Swanson, Rev. George Gaines Swanson, and Rev. Robert T. Coolidge founded KatrinasDream.org to carry on the ministry of Katrina Swanson: the full inclusion of both women clergy and lay leaders in the church, the rights of women upheld by the law, and other social justice issues.

In the years following Katrina’s death, the organization Katrina’s Dream has celebrated a yearly service at churches across the country. These included a service celebrated by Canon Noelle Hall at St. Martin’s Church in Canterbury, England during the 2008 Lambeth Conference using a service created by Katrina when she celebrated at St. Saviour’s Episcopal Church, Bar Harbor, Maine, on August 8, 2004.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH AND IN SOCIETY

PART II : KATRINA'S DREAM EMPOWERING WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The U.S. Constitution does not guarantee equal rights for women. The only right guaranteed women in the United States have is the right to vote. The **Equal Rights Amendment** 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 is a simple statement that would define the meaning of “We the people” to include the majority of the population — women.

HERSTORY

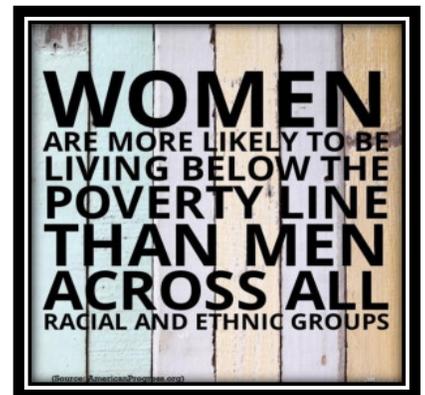


Seneca Falls nourished abolitionism and feminism in the 1840s. Abolitionist Abby Kelly spoke against slavery at an outdoor rally there in 1843. One of her followers was later convicted of “*disorderly and unchristian conduct*” for arguing with the local Presbyterian minister about abolition. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Coffin Mott helped organize the first Women’s Rights Convention in 1848. Frederick Douglas’ impassioned support helped the convention pass the Women’s Declaration of Sentiments which proclaimed: “*All men and women are created equal.*”

In 1923 the National Women’s Rights party celebrated the 75th anniversary of the 1848 convention. Alice Paul, imprisoned, beaten and force fed for protesting President Wilson’s for not supporting women’s rights proposed the Equal Rights Amendment at the 1923 meeting in Seneca Falls. Since 1923, activists have been trying to pass the **Equal Rights Amendment** (E.R.A.). U.S. Congress first approved the E.R.A. and sent it to the states for ratification in 1972. Within a year, 30 states had ratified. By the end of the seven-year deadline though, only 35 states ratified — three states short.

WITHOUT THE ERA

Women fighting for equal pay have no consistent judicial standard for deciding legal cases, with women earning 78 cents for every dollar earned by a man, with African American women and Latinas making even less, 64 cents and 53 cents. The racial gender pay gap remains stalled. According to The Shriver Report (2014), 1 in 3 American women, 42 million women, plus 28 million children, either live in poverty or are right on the brink of it. (The report defines the “brink of poverty” as making \$47,000 a year for a family of four.) Two-thirds of American women are either the primary or co-breadwinners of their families. One out of every four women is a victim of domestic violence and one out of every five has been or will be raped. The E.R.A. would help ensure fair consideration in court cases concerning the wage gap and also in cases about domestic violence, rape, forced prostitution and sexual slavery. Finally. The gaps in poverty rates between men and women is wider than anywhere else in the western world with 75 percent of elderly Americans living in poverty which are women.



STEPS TAKEN



The Swanson Family founded Katrina’s Dream in memory of her late mother-in-law, Katrina Swanson. Katrina was one of the eleven first women priests who were irregularly ordained in 1974. When the E.R.A. was voted down in the United States Katrina would say the Pledge of Allegiance, “*with Liberty and Justice for SOME!*” When questioned, “*Why ‘some’?*”, Katrina would say, “*Because the E.R.A. was voted down retired women are more likely to live in poverty than men.*”

[label pin design created by William Swanson for the 2008 Lambeth Conference, Canterbury, England]

In July 2007, a team was sent to the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury England where they distributed label pins bearing the saying, “God is Beyond Gender” to show their support for the LGBT community and women’s rights. William and Helene Swanson received a blessing from Archbishop the Canterbury Rowen Williams for the ministry of Katrina’s Dream. Rowen Williams sought out and engaged Helene Swanson regarding her work on women’s issues at the Katrina’s Dream Exhibitor’s Booth at the 76th General Convention in Anaheim, California. There Katrina’s Dream was instrumental in the passage of **Resolution 2009-D042**, which called for The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America’s to renew its historic support of passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. On March 8, 2011, citing support and including Katrina’s Dream Letter of Endorsement, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) chose International Women’s Day to introduce legislation / Resolution HJ 47- the “Three State Strategy” to speed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution.



On July 19, 2012, Helene made her first pilgrimage walking 500+ mile from the Women’s Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, NY, on July 19, 2012. The morning of the pilgrimage Helene, William Swanson and the Rev. Robert T. Coolidge took time to have morning prayer at Trinity Episcopal Church. She arrived in Washington DC on August 26, 2012, the 92nd anniversary of the 19th Amendment – the right for women to vote, the only right guaranteed women by the United States Constitution. Swanson walked from parish to parish, as an expression of her faith, to bring attention to the need for an Equal Rights Amendment for the full inclusion of women in society and for LGBTQ Rights.

Helene Swanson, made her second pilgrimage, a 7,000 mile/10,000 kilometer pilgrimage, across the United States promoting the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Helene started her journey on International Women’s Day Bridgewalk at the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, CA on March 8, 2014. She slept roadside, at the occasional good Samaritan’s home, and in churches along her route. Helene made her way across Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia all 15 of the 15 non-ratifying states. While on her pilgrimage on March 8, 2015, Helene made an excursion to attend the United Nation’s 59th Commission on the Status of Women/Beijing Platform 20. She met up with Lynnaia Main, Global Mission Officer of the Episcopal Church and participated in the United Nations International Women’s Day – March and Rally at Times Square, New York City, New York.



Following a prayer service celebrated by Bishop Joe Morris Doss, Swanson and a large group of people held a Women’s Equality Day Rally on August 26, 2015 walking the last four miles of her pilgrimage in solidarity to the Upper Senate Park, National Mall, Washington DC to promote Women’s Rights. In the days that followed they held a Call To Action Lobby Day where they met with this nation’s leaders to demand the passage of the federal Equal Rights Amendment. Both Molly Fishman of US Representative Jackie Spier’s office and William Van Horn from Senator’s Bill Cardin’s Office read a letters in support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

On March 22, 2017 the Nevada Legislative Assembly became the first state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in the 21st Century, Helene Swanson’s pilgrimage was cited in the Nevada Legislative Record as being the spark that light the fire for the resurrection of the Equal Rights Amendment and rebirth of the Women’s Rights Movement. The following year Katrina’s Dream and a number of other organizations rallied and supported efforts and Illinois ratified on May 30, 2018, leaving just one more state to go!



Katrina’s Dream along with One Rural Women and Public Eye Reports hold THE CALL, a Sunday nationwide program where activist, advocates, elected officials, enthusiasts, lobbyists, and organizations come together to meditate, educate and promote the passage of the E.R.A. The concept behind the program is to provide a space where **folks** build friendships and networks, support wanderings, share wisdom, identify complexities, listen to frustrations, and celebrate

IV 115TH U.S. CONGRESS

a. Dear Colleague Letter

- i. U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin (January 11, 2017)
- ii. Text of S.J. Res. 5
- iii. U.S. Representative Jackie Speier (January 11, 2017)
- iv. Text of H.J. Res 53

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
MARYLAND

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(410) 962-4436

United States Senate

January 11, 2017

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
FINANCE
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

COMMISSION ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

SUPPORT EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN AND RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)

DEADLINE FOR ORIGINAL CO-SPONSORSHIP: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

Dear Colleague:

As we prepare for the Women's March on Washington on January 21 after the presidential inauguration, I write to encourage you to become an original co-sponsor of a joint resolution to remove the deadline for the states' ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). When Congress passed the ERA in 1972, it provided that the measure had to be ratified by three-fourths of the states (38 states) within 7 years. A joint resolution enacted by Congress later extended this deadline to 10 years, but ultimately only 35 out of 38 states had ratified by the revised 1982 deadline.

Congress has the authority to give the states another chance to guarantee women equality under the law, and should do so. Our resolution would remove the deadline set by Congress for ratification of the ERA. Article V of the Constitution contains no time limits for ratification of constitutional amendments, and the ERA time limit was contained in a joint resolution, not the actual text of the amendment. In 1992, the 27th Amendment to the Constitution prohibiting immediate Congressional pay raises was ratified after 203 years.

The Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution guarantees "equal protection of the laws," and the Supreme Court has so far held that most sex or gender classifications are subject to only "intermediate scrutiny" when analyzing laws that may have a discriminatory impact. In 2011, the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia stated: "Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't." Ratification of the ERA by state legislatures would provide the courts with clearer guidance in holding gender or sex classifications to the "strict scrutiny" standard.

This joint resolution was introduced in the last Congress as S.J. Res. 15, and the House companion legislation was H.J. Res. 51. To join as an original co-sponsor of this joint resolution, or if you have any questions, please contact Matthew Spikes in Senator Cardin's office at 202-224-4524 or Matthew_Spikes@cardin.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 5

Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 17, 2017

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS,

Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

1 Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives
2 of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 That notwithstanding any time limit contained in House
4 Joint Resolution 208, 92d Congress, as agreed to in the
5 Senate on March 22, 1972, the article of amendment pro-
6 posed to the States in that joint resolution shall be valid
7 to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution

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- 1 whenever ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of
- 2 the several States.

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Cosponsor Rep. Speier Equal Rights Amendment Bill (H.J. Res. 53) - Its 2017 and Women Still Aren't Protected by the US Constitution?

Dear Colleague:

It's 2017 and women still aren't equal under the U.S. Constitution? The late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia didn't think they are: "Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't." Justice Scalia's words should haunt every woman and man in this country who believes everyone deserves equal treatment under the Constitution.

In 1923, on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, suffragist and Republican Alice Paul first announced the ERA. This constitutional amendment was introduced in every session of Congress from 1923 until it passed in 1972. Unfortunately the ratification effort fell 3 states short when the deadline expired.

My legislation, H.J. Res. 53, would repeal the expired deadline and restart the ratification clock at the current 35state level, without a new time limit.

Then only three more states would need to ratify the ERA for it to become part of the Constitution. Current state efforts are already under way to do so in Illinois, Nevada, and Virginia.

Please join me as a cosponsor of this important legislation.

All the best,

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Congresswoman Speier's legislation has been endorsed by the following groups: 9 to 5, Alaska Women's Network, Alice Paul Institute, American Association of University Women (AAUW), American Ethical Union, American Humanist Association (AHA), AHA Feminist Caucus, Business and Professional Women's Foundation (BPW), Arkansans 4 Immediate Passage of ERA, Center for Advancement of Public Policy (CAPP), Center for Women's Policy Studies, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, Coalition for the ERA, Coalition of Labor Union Women, CT Permanente Commission on Women, ERA Action, ERAmerica, ERA Campaign Network, ERA Coalition, ERA Education Fund, Inc, ERA NOW, Equal Rights Advocates, Equal Rights Alliance, Equal Visibility Everywhere, Federally Employed Women, Feminist Majority, Gender Equality Solidarity Society, Girls Gotta Run Foundation, Girls Give Back, The Gray Panthers, Hadassah Women's Zionist, Indian American Leadership Council, Katrina's Dream, The Majority United, Missouri Women's Network, National Association of Social Workers, National Congress of Black Women, National Council of Jewish Women, National Council of PR Women, National Council of Women of USA, National Council of Women's Organization- ERA Task Force, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National Organization for Women (NOW), National Women's Law Center, National Women's Political Caucus, NWPC-Florida, NWPC-Missouri, NYPC-New Mexico, One Struggle One Fight, People Demanding Action, Progressive Democrats of America, Radical Women, Ratify ERA-NC, Responsible for Equality and Liberty, Ross Co.-OH, San Francisco Dept. on the Status of Women, School Girls Unite!, Secular Woman, Washington Office, United for Equality LLC, United Methodist Women, UniteWomen.org, US Women's Chamber Commerce, VA (Arlington Co.) Commission for Women, VoteERA.org, We Are Woman, Women-Matter.Org, Women Rise Up Now, Women's Campaign Fund, Women's Democratic Club, Women's Research and Education Institute, Women's Suburban Dem. Club, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., Youth Activism Project, Inc., and YWCA.

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 53

Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2017

Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr.

BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F.

DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHN-

SON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIND, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr.

LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr.

PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHRAEDER, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Wash-

ington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. WALZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CAR-

SON of Indiana, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HECK, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. HIMES, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr.

PALLONE, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KIHUEN, and

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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