

2019 WCOE Legislative Issue Sheet

As of February 27, 2019

Issue: Equal Rights Amendment

Background: Women deserve to be protected under our Constitution with an equality guarantee that cannot be undermined, taken away or disregarded. “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of gender.” It is time for passage of this amendment.

Position: WCOE supports the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Key Points

- ERA stands for Equal Rights Amendment
- *The Equal Rights Amendment is a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex; it seeks to end the legal distinctions between men and women in terms of divorce, property, employment and other matters*
- ERA first introduced in 1923 and passed in 1972 but the fight for gender equality is not over.
- The process then required ratification by three-quarters (38) of the state legislatures. The Congress placed a 1979 deadline on the ratification process but as the 1979 deadline approached, with 35 states having ratified, the deadline was extended to 1982. It fell three short.
- **37 states have passed the ERA and two states have recently passed it, IL and NV**
- **The deadline for passage should be extended**
- Legal analysts believe that once one more state ratifies it, this process could withstand legal challenge and accomplish ratification of the ERA.

Status: Senate and House Resolutions Introduced

S.J.Res 6 – To Remove Deadline for ratification of ERA

Referred to: Senate Judiciary Committee

Sponsored by: Senator Ben Cardin

Cosponsors: [3](#) (2 R – 1 I)

(Cosponsors: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]* Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME] Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME])

H.J.Res 35 – To Prohibit U.S. or any state from denying or abridging equal rights under the law on account of sex

Referred to: House Judiciary Committee

Sponsored by: Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-12-NY) Cosponsors: [125](#) (124 D/1 R)

(Cosponsors on additional pages)

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