



Resolution in Support of Ratification by Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee equal rights and equal protection for the sexes and the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and state constitutional statements of equality generally do not provide the strict scrutiny for sex-based classifications that is provided for classifications based on race, religion, and national origin; and

WHEREAS, state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive, and these laws can be repealed or reduced, and the people of the United States continue to experience the negative effects of lack of political parity between men and women, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults;

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) provides that “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex” and the Amendment would help ensure women and men have the same constitutional protections; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was passed by Congress in 1972, and has been ratified by 37 states, the most recent being Nevada in 2017 and Illinois in 2018 and the time limit for the ERA appears only in the preamble and Congress presently is considering a bill that removes the time limit for ratification of the ERA; and

WHEREAS, for 47 years, the Virginia State Constitution has sought to protect Virginians from discrimination by the Commonwealth on the basis of sex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors urge the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ratify the ERA to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972, during the 2019 legislative session.

Signed this 1st day of August, 2018.

Ann H. Mallek, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors