

National Organization for Women



September 22, 2022

Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Attn: Justine Revelle, justine_revelle@schumer.senate.gov

Dear Sen. Schumer:

As we approach six weeks from the midterm general election, it is more critical than ever that Congress address the matter of the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**. On March 17, 2021, the House of Representatives voted with bipartisan support to pass H. J. Res. 17, eliminating the deadline for ratification of the ERA and declaring the amendment part of the U.S. Constitution. On January 27, 2022, President Biden voiced his support for the House resolution and called upon Congress to pass the joint resolution recognizing the full ratification of the ERA and declaring the amendment in effect. Now, the fate of the ERA rests in the hands of the U.S. Senate. We strongly urge that this measure be brought to a floor vote before the Nov. 8 General Election.

The federal Equal Rights Amendment has met all the Constitutional requirements to be recognized as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The ERA obtained 2/3 approval from both houses of Congress and ratification by 38 state legislatures, as of 2020. S. J. Res. 1 eliminates the deadline for ratification of the ERA which appears in the proposing clause of the 1972 resolution. Article V of the Constitution pertaining to the amending process does not address the issue of deadlines on the length of time to ratify; it simply says that whenever a proposed amendment is ratified by two-thirds of the states, it shall be “valid to all intents and purposes.”

The ERA passed from Congress to the states 50 years ago, and we now call upon you as the Majority Leader to take immediate action and schedule a floor vote for S. J. Res. 1. After nearly 100 years of fighting for sex equality, the fully ratified Equal Rights Amendment will ensure Constitutional equality for all, regardless of sex. The House has voted to remove the deadline for ratification of the ERA twice; it is time for the Senate to take a vote.

Sincerely,

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