



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated (BPW/NC) is one of nine lead organizations which make up the ERA-NC Alliance, and BPW/NC supports equal rights for the citizens of North Carolina and women constitute over 53 percent of the citizenry of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper witnessed in the Proclamation for *National Business Women's Week* in October 2017 that women play a critical role in families, the workplace, and in society as a whole, contributing to our economy and advancing our nation; and

WHEREAS, women continue to confront workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults, and a lack of political parity; and

WHEREAS, the ERA is needed to help correct systemic sex discrimination, since the US Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all the rights that it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex; and

WHEREAS, state laws and federal laws are not uniform or comprehensive and can be repealed or inadequately enforced or interpreted, and the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause has never been interpreted to guarantee equal rights for women in the same way the ERA would, by making sex a suspect category invoking strict judicial scrutiny, as race, national origin and religion do; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was proposed in 1923, passed by Congress in 1972 and ratified by 35 of the 38 states necessary to put it into the Constitution as of a June 30, 1982 time limit; and

WHEREAS, Congress can alter time limits in the proposing clauses of amendments, and the deadline for ERA appeared only in the preamble and not in the text of the amendment; and

WHEREAS, irrespective of a time limit for ratification, the state of Nevada ratified the ERA on March 22, 2017, becoming the 36th state to ratify the amendment; and the state of Illinois became the 37th state to ratify on May 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Senator Floyd B. McKissick, Jr. and Representative Carla Cunningham introduced ERA ratification bills in the NC General Assembly in the 2015 long session with Senator Mike Woodard co-sponsoring the Senate bill and Representative Henry M. "Mickey" Michaux Jr. co-sponsoring the House bill, and ERA ratification bills have been introduced in 2017 as SB782 and HB1072; and

WHEREAS, US Representatives G.K. Butterfield, David Price and Alma Adams co-sponsored bills in the 114th Congress to pass an ERA and to lift the time limits on the states for ratifying the ERA;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of BPW/NC call on Congress to pass into law bills to remove the time limit for ratification of the ERA so that ratification shall be achieved upon the affirmative vote of 3 more state beyond the 35 that approved by 1982; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the members of BPW/NC call on the NC General Assembly to pass into law a bill to ratify the ERA to the US Constitution as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.

*Adopted by the North Carolina Federation of
Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated, June 23, 2018*