

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NC SB 85 AND HB 102 RATIFYING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT ("ERA") AND THE US CONGRESS HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 53 TO REMOVE THE DEADLINE FOR ERA RATIFICATION

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville supports equal rights for the citizens of Asheville and women constitute approximately 53% of the citizenry of Asheville; and

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

WHEREAS, in 1972, the US Congress adopted the Equal Rights Amendment ("ERA") to the US Constitution designed to guarantee equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender which required approval by legislatures in three-fourths (38) of the 50 states; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was approved by 35 of the 38 states necessary to amend the US Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the deadline for ratification of the ERA is assumed to have expired in 1982; however, Nevada approved the ERA in March of 2017, becoming the 36<sup>th</sup> state of the 38 states needed for ratification; and

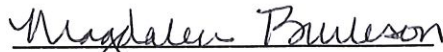
WHEREAS, in January of 2017, United States House Representatives G.K. Butterfield, David Price, and Alma Adams, representing North Carolina, co-sponsored House Joint Resolution 53 which would remove the ERA ratification deadline; and

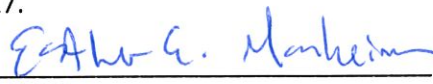
WHEREAS, in February of 2017, North Carolina Senators Floyd B. McKissick, Jr. and Terry Van Duyn co-sponsored SB 85 and North Carolina Representatives Carla Cunningham, Susan Fisher, John Ager, and Brian Turner co-sponsored HB 102 which would ratify the ERA; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

1. The City of Asheville supports the adoption of US Congress House Joint Resolution 53 to remove the time limit for ratification of the ERA.
2. The City of Asheville supports the adoption of North Carolina SB 85 and HB 102 to ratify the ERA.

Read, approved and adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2017.

  
CITY CLERK

  
MAYOR

Approved as to form:

  
CITY ATTORNEY