



# The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

*Serving Currituck and Dare Counties, Ocracoke Island*

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## A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEARINGS AND RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

**WHEREAS**, the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, representing over 1,000 businesses and organizations strongly supports equal rights for all its citizens and people everywhere,

**WHEREAS**, women, who constitute over 51% of the population of North Carolina, continue to confront workplace discrimination; health care inequities; disparate rates of poverty; rape and domestic violence assaults; a lack of political parity; and

**WHEREAS**, Anti-discrimination state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive; additionally, these laws can be repealed or reduced; and

**WHEREAS**, The Equal Rights Amendment (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**, 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**, Irrespective of a time limit for ratification, the Nevada Legislature ratified the ERA with a bipartisan vote on March 22, 2017, becoming the thirty-sixth state to ratify the amendment; and Illinois ratified the ERA amendment in May, 2018; and

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

**WHEREAS**, ERA bills were introduced into both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly in 2015 and 2017; were assigned to Judiciary and/or Rules Committees, but were not considered in hearings; and

**WHEREAS**, The undersigned calls for a renewed effort to ratify the ERA; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce encourages 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 this 12 day of April, 2019.

Pat Broom, Chairman of the Board  
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Karen S. Brown, President & CEO  
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

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