

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

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Anti-discrimination state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive; additionally, these laws can be repealed or reduced; and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 the Illinois Legislature ratified the ERA with a bipartisan vote on May 30, 2018, becoming the thirty-seventh state to ratify the amendment; 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, Fifteen municipalities across North Carolina have adopted resolutions of support for the ERA; and

WHEREAS, ERA bills were introduced into both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly in 2015, 2017 and 2018; were assigned to Judiciary and/or Rules Committees, but were not considered in hearings; and

WHEREAS, J. Carey O'Cain, Mayor of Laurel Park, NC calls for a renewed effort to ratify the ERA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Laurel Park Town Council will prioritize advocating that the General Assembly hold committee hearings upon like ratification bills and will pursue ratification of the ERA to the US Constitution as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.

Submitted to ERA-N Alliance, April 16, 2019.

Signed: J. Carey O'Cain
J. Carey O'Cain, Mayor
Town of Laurel Park

Attest:
Kimberly B. Hensley
Kimberly B. Hensley, Town Clerk
Town of Laurel Park