

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT 2016

WHEREAS, Durham County steadfastly supports equal rights for the citizens of Durham County; and women constitute over 53 percent of the citizenry; and

WHEREAS, to further demonstrate that support Durham County created its Durham County Women's Commission on February 2, 1987 to create space for leaders to work on issues and recommend policy changes to enhance the quality of life for all women; and

WHEREAS, despite efforts to bring awareness, 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, the US Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all rights that it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex; and

WHEREAS, 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 situating sex as a suspect category invoking strict judicial scrutiny, just as race, national origin and religion do; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was passed by Congress in 1972 and ratified by 35 of the 38 states necessary to put it into the Constitution, yet was assumed to have expired in 1982; and

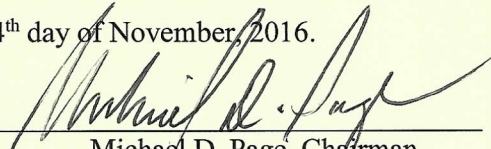
WHEREAS, State Senator Floyd B. McKissick, Jr. and Representative Carla Cunningham introduced ERA ratification bills in the NC General Assembly in the 2015 long session with State Senator Mike Woodard co-sponsoring the Senate bill and Representative Henry M. Michaux co-sponsoring the House bill; and our legislators will introduce like bills in 2017; 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.

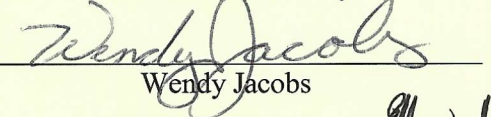
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, now call on Congress to pass into law a bill to pass an ERA and to remove the time limit for ratification of the ERA so that ratification shall be achieved upon the affirmative vote of 38 states, of which 35 have already ratified; and

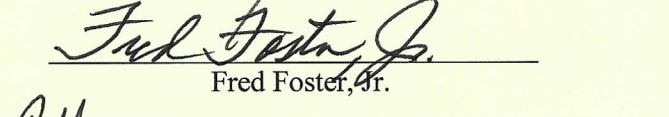
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Durham County also calls on the NC General Assembly to pass into law a bill to ratify the ERA to the US Constitution as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.

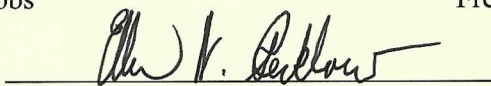
This the 14th day of November, 2016.


Michael D. Page, Chairman


Brenda A. Howerton, Vice-Chairman


Wendy Jacobs


Fred Foster, Jr.


Ellen W. Reckhow

