



**(Name) Chamber of Commerce**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the (name) Chamber of Commerce, representing over (number) of businesses and organizations strongly supports equal rights for all its citizens and people everywhere, and

**WHEREAS**, women play a critical role in our community, 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**WHEREAS**, state laws and federal laws are not uniform or comprehensive and can be repealed or inadequately enforced or interpreted, and the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause has never been interpreted to guarantee equal rights for women in the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 states of Nevada (2017) and Illinois (2018) ratified the ERA, becoming the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh states, respectively, to ratify the amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Floyd B. McKissick, Jr. and Representative Carla Cunningham introduced ERA ratification bills in the NC General Assembly in the 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019 (SB184 and H271) sessions; and

**WHEREAS**, US Representative Jackie Speier introduced a resolution (H.J. Res. 38) and US Senators Benjamin Cardin and Lisa Murkowski co-sponsored a resolution (S.J. Res. 6) in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress to lift the time limits on the states for ratifying the ERA;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the (name) Chamber of Commerce calls 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 1 more state beyond the 37 that approved by 2018; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the (name) Chamber of Commerce 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.

**ADOPTED** this date the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ 201\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Appropriate Chamber Signatures