



(Name) Chamber of Commerce

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, the (area 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, 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anti-discrimination state laws are nonuniform and federal laws are not comprehensive; additionally, these laws can be repealed or reduced; and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, 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, the undersigned call for a renewed effort to ratify the ERA;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, RESOLVED, that the (name) 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 date the ___ day of ___ 201___.

Appropriate Chamber Signatures