

An Open Letter to Lawmakers  
In Support of Ratification and Implementation of  
The Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution

We, the undersigned, support ratification and implementation of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The protection offered by the Fourteenth Amendment against sex discrimination has been interpreted in different ways over time and by different justices, and currently only an intermediate level of judicial scrutiny is provided in cases involving sex discrimination.

Although certain federal and state laws have helped protect women from gender-based violence and discrimination, these statutes, as stated by the American Bar Association (ABA), “provide patchwork protection and have been subject to different levels of enforcement and judicial interpretation.” The ABA states that ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment would have the following effects:

First, it would establish that gender equality under the law is a fundamental and irrevocable tenet of our society.

Second, it would require all judges to apply the highest standard of scrutiny when deciding cases involving sex discrimination. This means judges would use the same standard of review in sex discrimination cases that they now use in deciding cases involving discrimination based on race, religion, and national origin.

And third, it would protect and reinvigorate enforcement of existing gender equity laws.

Accordingly, we urge you to rapidly complete all steps necessary for implementation of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.