



SENATE RESOLUTION 24-004

BY SENATOR(S) Cutter and Fields, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Danielson, Exum, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Priola, Roberts, Rodriguez, Sullivan, Winter F., Fenberg.

CONCERNING THE EFFORT TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND ENSHRINE IN THE CONSTITUTION THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, This year marks the 101st anniversary of when the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was initially proposed in Congress. Many things about American life have changed since then, and there is now widespread bipartisan support of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, The strides made over these past 101 years are not inconsequential, but are still piecemeal when compared to the straightforward declaration of the ERA, which simply states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex"; and

WHEREAS, We know that women's rights, on multiple levels, are still being challenged. Bodily autonomy, equal pay, and protection from sexual harassment are still being denied; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, the Brennan Center's Women and Democracy Fellow, noted that the ERA would empower Congress "to enforce gender equity through legislation and, more generally, the creation of a social framework to formally acknowledge systemic biases that permeate and often limit women's daily experiences"; and

WHEREAS, Among 193 United Nations member states, 85% have a

provision in their constitution that specifically addresses gender equality, and 60% have a provision that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; and

WHEREAS, In January 2023, at the beginning of the new Congressional Session, identical joint resolutions were introduced in both the House (H.J.Res.25) and in the Senate (S.J.Res.4), stating in the preamble that "notwithstanding any time limit", the ERA is valid, having been ratified by 38 states; and

WHEREAS, The ERA was first passed by Congress more than 50 years ago, and three out of four adults in the United States are in favor of adding the ERA to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Courts and legislative bodies can change, so it is imperative that women's rights are properly enshrined in the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The ERA would transform what is currently implicit into the unambiguous and strengthen the bedrock of our most dearly held American value, that all people are created equal. As one of the first states to allow women to vote, several years before the 19th amendment gave all women in America this right, Colorado has proudly stood by and for women. It is long past time to fill the full measure of this storied history and enshrine the ERA into the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Coloradans and all American women deserve this basic protection of their inherent freedom; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

(1) That women have fought long and hard to have their rights recognized;

(2) That women and those identifying as women are still subject to pay, pregnancy, and other forms of discrimination; and

(3) That, having received the ratification of the 38 states required, it is time for the United States Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment.

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Steve Fenberg  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE