

Removing the Deadline for Ratification of the ERA

WHEREAS today, at a time when many in Congress and throughout the nation have stated their intent to repeal equal pay legislation, to overturn Roe v. Wade, and to sacrifice women's health to political expediency, women need a Constitutional guarantee of equality;

WHEREAS a sitting Supreme Court Justice recently stated that he believes the Constitution does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, reaffirming the need for an ERA to ensure equality for women in all areas of their lives;

WHEREAS the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first proposed in 1923 to affirm that women and men have equal rights under the law;

WHEREAS the ERA was passed by Congress in 1972 but is still not part of the U.S. Constitution because only 35 of the required 38 States have ratified the ERA;

WHEREAS it is a moral imperative that women be afforded all the protections of the Constitution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we call on our Congressional Delegation to support removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, which will guarantee the following for all women: that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex; that Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this ERA; and that the amendment shall take effect two years after the date of its ratification.

Submitted by the Benton County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its June 2, 2012 Convention. (Date Submitted 4/30/2012)

Recommended 'PASS WITH AMENDMENTS' by the Subcommittee on Civil and Human Rights, Government and Political Reform, and Law and the Justice System at its May 12th meeting in Ellensburg.

Recommended 'PASS' by the Platform Committee at its June 1st meeting in Seattle.

'PASSED' by the Washington State Democratic Convention at its June 2nd meeting in Seattle.