

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT / ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FOR ALL

ARIZONA STATE 38

By Tammy Bosse,

2/9/19

ERA: ECONOMIC RESILIENCY for ALL is how I characterize it. ERA: EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT. It is way past TIME TO PASS IT! Why you ask? Why is it needed you ask? Women are already equal, aren't they? What is the ERA exactly?

Women are not currently equal to men in the United States Constitution. That is not fair. That is not right. Even with other laws protecting aspects of equality, without women being equal beings in the constitution, it leaves women vulnerable to the whims of lawmakers. We have been complacent. Though widely misunderstood and mischaracterized, the language is simple. "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

You can click here for an outline of the history on the ERA https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equal_Rights_Amendment

Why should I care about the ERA being passed in the Arizona Legislature NOW in this session? Because only one more state needs to pass it for the ERA to be ratified Nationally. Arizona could be the all important 38th State to pass the ERA. How cool is that? We are VERY close to making this happen. The more support that we can garner in the next few weeks, the more chance that we have of passing this.

The good news is that there are many women already doing much of the heavy lifting. All we need from you is a few phone calls which will make a HUGE difference to tell the world that you agree that women are equal to men. Yes, there is more that you can do, of course. As with any organizing effort, you can support it financially, attend events, meet with legislators, help get the word out in our circles, help with the administration, donate the cause, and more. But, by simply making few of the targeted, requested calls in Arizona as it works its way through this session in the next few weeks you could have a historic impact on being one step closer to finally getting the ERA passed nationally once and for all.

I took some time to put together some resources to help folks get up to speed on the many aspects of this process. Let's come together and get this done!

Here is a link with an overview of what is happening in the legislative process in Arizona. <https://equalmeansequal.org/states/arizona/>

Here is the link to the Arizona ERA Task Force that updates people on the latest and where you can sign up for action alerts. <https://erataskforceaz.com>

The vast majority of people in the country and in Arizona support the ERA amendment. Since Congress passed it in 1972 nationally, 37 states have passed the ERA in their State Legislatures. We need a 38th State for full national ratification. Arizona can make this happen this year.

When former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was a member of the Arizona Senate, she supported the Equal Rights Amendment. When she and other lawmakers couldn't get it passed in the Legislature, she supported a statewide referendum on the ERA, so lawmakers could see where Arizona voters stood on the issue. <https://www.azcentral.com/.../sandra-oconnor-equa.../2594106002/>

Here is what is happening in AZ at the time that this article was written 2/9/19. For updates again, sign up for at <https://erataskforceaz.com> If you have questions you can call me at 602-697-0003 and I will connect you with someone to address your questions.

At the AZ Legislature watch SCR1006 and SCR1009 in the Senate. Both were assigned to the Arizona Judiciary and Rules committees. Committee assignments, holdups and roadblocks can be a challenge that stops this from proceeding. Right now, calls are needed to the leadership of these committees and to the members of the committee to reinforce support and to overcome resistance points.

In the House of Representatives watch HCR 2030. This was just filed at the House of Representatives with 33 names, including 30 bi-partisan House members and 3 Senate members. and needs to be assigned to a committee. Rusty Bowers, Speaker of the House of Representatives, can be a friend or foe.

The votes appear to be there in the AZ legislature if we can get through some of the leadership to get this to a full House and Senate vote. There are a few key players who vow to use their mis-guided, or some could say obscene, power play as a last bastion of an attempt at oppressive control over women. Eddie Farnsworth, Chair of the AZ Senate Judiciary Committee, has reportedly said directly to an ERA supporter that he will not hear the bill, no matter how many thousands of supportive phone calls he receives. EVERY bill after it passes whatever committee it was in, goes to Rules - Rules job is to declare if the bill is constitutional and in proper form. After passing Rules, then it goes to the floor. Or, at least it should go to the floor of the chamber for a vote. The floor manager also has sole control on which bills get assigned to the daily calendar. Unfortunately, in the Senate, that is Eddie Farnsworth who is president pro tem and he has vowed not to let ERA bills go to the floor for a vote, NO MATTER WHAT. SICKENING. This kind of power play is not fair and does not represent our democratic system as intended. The will of the people is not being represented when leaders of the elected bodies can stop a bill from even being heard.

However, all is not lost if the bill does not get put onto the calendar the traditional way for a vote. No being buried in Judiciary is NOT the end.

It can be removed at any time.

It can skip any and all processes.

It can become a striker.

It can be forced through a discharge petition.

There can be floor maneuvers to waive the rules as there has been both years in the last 2 in both chambers.

That's why it's not over till it's over. sine die

And Dianne and the wonderful women involved are saying "we are not giving up till then". And if this does not pass this year, we will do it all over again next year.

Here is another informative AZ Republic Article:

<https://www.azcentral.com/.../equal-rights-amendm.../2605903002/>

The time is now while the legislature is in session. The next couple of weeks are crucial. This is exceptionally important and has historic significance. It is time that women are recognized as equal humans in the U. S. constitution! Arizona can be the state that takes this to the finish line. [#state38](#).

We are also putting together a list of businesses who support this. If you would like for your business to be listed as a supporting business, let me know or contact Karen Bravo at Karen.L.Bravo@gmail.com. Personally, I will make a concerted effort to support businesses who support the concept of the ERA.

You can call Dianne Post at (602) 271-9019 who has taken charge of the overall legislative process for targeted questions about how to help that are not already mentioned here.

Call your Representatives and your Senators.

Find out who your legislators are here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/findmylegislator/>

Call or email the members of the Judiciary and Rules committees. Especially Farnsworth.

https://ballotpedia.org/Judiciary_Committee,_Arizona_State_...

Call the Senate leadership Karen Fann, Arizona Senate President or Russell Bowers, Speaker of the House

Fill out a comment card from your computer or a request to speak card:

<https://apps.azleg.gov/RequestToSpeak/UpcomingAgendas>

Follow the instructions below in the ERA TASK FORCE instructions!

I personally am out of patience with people trying to stop the passage of the ERA. There is no logical reason to do anything but support this. If you are still reading this article, you must be, too! Below is the latest action alert straight from the ERA Task Force. It has many more specifics and phone numbers for who to call in Arizona.

****** ERA ACTION ALERT 2/7/19 ******

We now have four ERA bills in Arizona. The ERA simply says: *"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."* Who can object to that?

To make this a reality, we need you to take action. The most effective action is a personal meeting with the Senator or Representative either in the office at the capital or in the person's district. Barring that, the second most effective action is a handwritten letter, then a phone call, then an email, and then a pre-printed document like our postcards. So see the actions needed below and do as many as you can manage. Also, please spread the word to all your contacts statewide.

House of Representatives:

HCR 2030 – an ERA Ratification bill with Representative Pamela Powers Hannley and 32 others from both parties and both chambers.

Actions needed:

1. Contact Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers to swiftly assign the bill to a committee and ensure that it will be heard. His contact information: 602-926-3128 rbowers@azleg.gov We only have three more weeks to hear House bills in the House so it needs to be assigned immediately. As soon as we find out the committee, we'll send out that information for you to contact them.
2. Contact your two state representatives to support. Find your Representatives [HERE](#)

Talking Points include:

- The equal protection clause of the Constitution's 14th Amendment has never been interpreted to grant equality on the basis of sex. If the 14th Amendment gave women equality, then why did we need the 19th Amendment to give us the right to vote?
- The equality laws that exist are not a constitutional guarantee; a law can be changed; a law can be

overturned. The ERA would provide a strong legal defense against a rollback of the significant advances in women's rights that have been achieved since the mid-20th century.

- Arizona women lose more than \$7,000 a year from the gender wage gap, totaling nearly \$6 billion a year. It's about economic fairness.

- When the history books are written, what side of the equality divide do you want to be standing on?

HCR2028 – a resolution to support the extension of the ERA timeline in Congress introduced by Representative Pamela Powers-Hannley and nine other Democrats. While that is important, we need to first be the 38th state to ratify the ERA. So, contact your two state representatives and tell them to support it. If it comes up for a vote, you'll be notified.

Arizona Senate:

SCR1006 – an ERA ratification bill with Republican Senator Ugenti-Rita as the prime sponsor and two other Republicans along with three Democrats.

SCR1009 – an ERA ratification bill with Senator Victoria Steele as the prime sponsor and seventeen signers from both parties.

Actions needed:

1. Contact President of the Senate Karen Fann to remove from the Judiciary committee and put into Commerce. Her contact information: 602-926-5874, kfann@azleg.gov
2. Contact the Chair and all members of the Judiciary committee to hear immediately. Eddie Farnsworth, 602-926-5735, efarnsworth@azleg.gov, vice chair Sonny Borrelli 602-926-5051 sborrelli@azleg.gov, Members: Lupe Contreras, 602-926-5284 lcontreras@azleg.gov, Rick Gray, 602-926-5413 rgray@azleg.gov, Vince Leach, 602-926-3106 vleach@azleg.gov, Martin Quezada, 602-926-5911 mquezada@azleg.gov

The main talking point to make to Senator Farnsworth and the committee members is that it is not democracy when one man (Farnsworth) can hold hostage the Constitutional equality of 161 million women (and children), including over 3.5 million in Arizona. 91% of Republicans support it; 92% of Independents; and 98% of Democrats. Give it the hearing it deserves.