



Terry Rambler
Chairman

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE

P.O. Box 0, San Carlos, Arizona 85550
Phone (928) 475-1600 ❖ Fax (928) 475-2567

Tao Etpison
Vice-Chairman

April 10, 2019

The Honorable Jamescita Peshlakai
Senator – District 7
E-M: jpeshlakai@azleg.gov

The Honorable Arlando Teller
Representative – District 7
E-M: ateller@azleg.gov

The Honorable Myron Tsosie
Representative – District 7
E-M: mtsosie@azleg.gov

Arizona State Legislature
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: SCR 1009, SCR 1006, HCR 2030 – Support for the Equal Rights Amendment

Dear Senator Peshlakai, Representative Teller and Representative Tsosie:

On behalf of the 16,700 members of the San Carlos Apache Tribe (the “Tribe”) and the San Carlos Council, the governing body of the Tribe, I urge you to support SCR 1009, SCR 1006 and HCR 2030, which seek to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment (“ERA”). The Tribe supports equal rights for all, regardless of gender, and the end to such discrimination in our state and throughout our Nation.

Senator Peshlakai

Representatives Teller and Tsosie

Re: SCR 1009, SCR 1006 and HCR 2030

April 10, 2019

Page 2 of 3

While the Declaration of Independence declared the self-evident truth that “All Men and Women are Created Equal and Endowed by the Creator with Certain Unalienable Rights,” the U.S. Constitution provides no such guarantee that protects women from discrimination. The ERA provides a simple solution in one sentence, “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.” This simple sentence, though, has not become law for 96 years too long.

Many Americans wrongfully assume that the United States already has laws protecting gender equality. After all, the Civil Rights Act, Title IX and the Equal Pay Act all offer protections against discrimination. But these stand as individual, disconnected pieces of legislation, diminished by new laws and U.S. Supreme Court rulings. An amendment, by contrast, would force a constitutional reckoning for sex-based discrimination.

As early as 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was one of the first to publicly demand women’s suffrage. Frustrated by the lack of equality between men and women up through 1923, Alice Paul, who introduced the ERA, poignantly declared that, “We shall not be safe until the principle of equal rights is written into the framework of our government.” Yet, it was not until 1972 that the ERA passed out of the U.S. Senate to the States for ratification, and still we wait.

We have waited largely because of misinformation from the likes of Phyllis Schlafly, who highlight their status as mothers and wives, arguing that ERA will force women to sign up for the draft, decriminalize rape, allow for same-sex marriages, give men permission not to support their families, and require Americans to use unisex toilets. Even the U.S. Supreme Court, in the 1908 case of *Muller v. Oregon*, put motherhood over a woman’s right to work. But, working women, Native American women and all women of color know full well the hardships of being treated not as equals.

According to the Pew Research Center (2017), 42% of women in the United States say they have faced discrimination on the job because of their gender. The Institute for Women’s Policy Research (2017) reports further that while women are almost half of the work force, they are the sole or co-breadwinner in half of American families with children, have more college and graduate degrees than men, yet, on average, “female full-time, year-round workers made only 80.5 cents for every dollar earned by men, a gender wage gap of 20 percent.” This gap widens for women of color, especially for Native American and African American women. Only the ERA can change this.

Now, Arizona stands in the unique position to become the thirty-eighth state and the last state needed to ratify the ERA.

The current legislative session offers perhaps the best opportunity to ratify the ERA in recent years. The Tribe is aware of repeated attempts at ratification in past legislative sessions

Senator Peshlakai

Representatives Teller and Tsosie

Re: SCR 1009, SCR 1006 and HCR 2030

April 10, 2019

Page 3 of 3

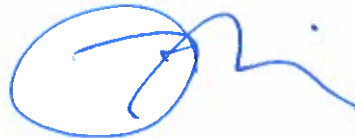
that have gone unsupported. However, with your support of the ERA ratification, we are hopeful that this legislative session will show that gender equality and women's rights are important issues that Arizona can and must promote.

Thus, the Tribe urges you to put your full support behind SCR 1009, SCR 1006 and HCR 2030 and ratification of the ERA to ensure that both men and women receive full rights under the U.S. Constitution and across our Nation.

As we say in our Apache language, Ahi'yi'é (thank you) for considering our request to join us in support of the ERA.

Sincerely,

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE



Terry Rambler
Chairman

Cc: Jefferson Keel, President, NCAI, naeveman@ncai.org
Jacqueline Pata, Exec. Dir., NCAI, jpata@ncai.org

Dianne Post, ERA Task Force AZ, postdpost@aol.com
Maria Dadgar, Exec. Dir., ITAA, maria.dadgar@itcaonline.com

San Carlos Apache Tribe
Tao Etpison, Vice Chairman
San Carlos Council Members
A. B. Ritchie, AG, OAG
File