STAND UP NOW FOR THE ERA

Dianne Post. February 7, 2019

The Equal Rights Amendment is 24 simple words. *Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.* So why is it still not passed 95 years after it was first introduced? 91% of Republicans, 92% of Independents and 98% of Democrats support the ERA. But 80% of Americans think it already passed back in the 1980s or have no idea what it is because they were born after 1982.

After 1982, the battle for equality for all Americans moved on to different arenas including AIDS and LGBT issues and then to women in the military and transgender issues and now onto #metoo and wide spread sexual assault against women.

But in 2017, Nevada flipped from a Red state to a Blue one and Senator Patricia Spearman, an African-American, lesbian, career military colonel, who is also a church minister led the movement to pass the ERA. Tie all that together if you can. In 2018, Illinois, rectified it’s 1982 defeat and passed the ERA – led by a white, male, Republican. So today, 37 states have ratified the ERA. We need one more. Arizona can be that one and get some good national media instead of the usual horror stories.

Many of the 1970s arguments against the ERA (funded by the Koch brothers – yes they were around then) have disappeared. Same sex marriage was a rallying cry against it. Well, too late for that. Women in combat was another – too late for that too. The military has made it clear that if we have another draft, women are on the list. The bathroom issue has been modified from “same sex bathrooms” to transpeople being in my bathroom (they already are, you just don’t know it). They still scream “abortion” at every instance although abortion is already a constitutional right since 1973 under a privacy argument. And of course they drag out that old canard – the ERA will destroy the family. Just like ending slavery would destroy the economy, non-discrimination laws would destroy the workplace, and gay marriage would destroy the family. Every step taken forward to embrace the values of the Constitution and include fairness and equality for all people is predictably met with the same people singing the same song based on the same fear of losing their own privilege.

Please go to the ERA Task Force Az website at [www.erataskforceaz.com](http://www.erataskforceaz.com) or facebook or twitter at same address. Join our action alerts to be notified when a legislative action needs to be taken. Sign up as a business that supports the ERA to show widespread support. Invite a speaker to your group to learn more about it and take action. When the history books are written, what side of the equality divide do you want to be standing on?