

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN
3 WASHINGTON, D.C., TO VOTE TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD
4 REMOVE THE DEADLINE FOR RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS
5 AMENDMENT.

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7 WHEREAS, equal rights for women are not specifically
8 included in the United States constitution; and

9 WHEREAS, the rights of women in the United States to
10 receive equal pay for equal work, be protected against
11 domestic violence and have fair work-leave policies and
12 access to the reproductive health care services of their
13 choice, among others, are daily being questioned and
14 restricted; and

15 WHEREAS, protection of women's rights at present is
16 through a patchwork of existing laws, executive actions and
17 judicial decisions that address individual cases of
18 discrimination one by one as they arise; and

19 WHEREAS, each or all of these individual existing laws,
20 executive actions and judicial decisions may be ignored,
21 eroded or overturned; and

22 WHEREAS, an amendment that would guarantee rights for
23 women that are equal to those of men would provide a
24 fundamental legal remedy against all cases of discrimination
25 based on gender; and

1 WHEREAS, resolutions to pass an amendment to the
2 United States constitution that would guarantee equal rights
3 for women and men have been introduced into congress each
4 year since 1923; and

5 WHEREAS, thirty-five of the thirty-eight states required
6 for the amendment to become part of the constitution ratified
7 the equal rights amendment by the deadline of 1982; and

8 WHEREAS, the deadline for ratification is not in the
9 binding text of the document itself and, in fact, was later
10 extended by another congress for an additional three years,
11 thus establishing the precedent that congress has the power
12 to do so; and

13 WHEREAS, in the one hundred twelfth congress,
14 Senate Joint Resolution 39, introduced by Senator Ben Cardin,
15 and House Joint Resolution 47, introduced by Representative
16 Tammy Baldwin, would remove the deadline for ratification of
17 the amendment so that an additional three states may ratify
18 it; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexicans feel justly proud that New Mexico
20 was one of the first states in the union to ratify the equal
21 rights amendment in 1973, and it passed its own equal rights
22 amendment to the constitution of New Mexico in 1972;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it call upon the New Mexico
25 congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., to vote in

1 favor of legislation that would remove the deadline for
2 ratification of the equal rights amendment so that efforts
3 can proceed to get ratification by the necessary additional
4 three states so that, finally, the guarantee of equal rights
5 for women and men in the United States will become the law of
6 the land; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to each member of the New Mexico congressional
9 delegation and to the chief clerks of the house of
10 representatives and the senate of the United States
11 congress.

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