

Oklahoma Federation of Business and Professional Women

Resolution for Ratification of the "Equal Rights Amendment"

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Whereas, the United States Constitution fails to guarantee equal rights and equal justice to female citizens to their continuing detriment just because they are female; and

Whereas, every Constitution created since World War II includes an Equal Rights clause, but the United States Constitution still does not; and

Whereas, CEDAW, the international women's rights treaty, is gaining the attention of U.S. Legislators for possible ratification in view of the 170 other nations that have signed even though the United States Congress has not insured the rights of its women citizens; and

Whereas, currently there are three Resolutions for adoption of the ERA now gaining sponsors in the U.S. House and Senate, and several national organizations now working solely for adoption of the ERA; and

Whereas, the ERA, as worded above 84 years ago, has been ratified by 35 states and thus needs the added ratification of only 3 of the 15 unratified states to be adopted in the Constitution; and

Whereas, the ERA is deemed still timely and viable by highly respected legal scholars; and

Whereas, laws against gender discrimination can be ignored, poorly enforced, weakened, or even repealed as a result of legislative or executive actions, judicial interpretations, or lack of funding; and

Whereas, the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the various state Constitutional statements of sexual equality generally do not withstand legal challenge; and

Whereas, the Equal Rights Amendment provides the only uncontestable remedy for gender discrimination for both women and men by providing a Constitutional guarantee of equal rights; and

Whereas, 72% of voters, according to a recently conducted poll by Research Opinion Corporation, Princeton, New Jersey, stated that they assumed an ERA was already in the U S Constitution; and

Whereas, ratification of the ERA would enhance the dignity of all Americans by proclaiming equality in perpetuity and would act to propel society toward a more civilized America by unleashing the talent and energies of all people, male and female; and

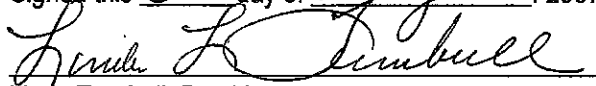
Whereas, Oklahoma, one of the several states yet to ratify the Equal Right Amendment, is uniquely positioned to make political history and take an honored place in the front lines of our country's ongoing struggle for justice and equality.

Therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Oklahoma Federation of Business and Professional Women will support any constitutionally viable means to add the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution and will take action using the resources at its command, including inspiring the support for the ERA from its members, citizens, and elected officials, coalescing with other organizations and encouraging our members and others to contact legislators and the media in support of the ERA.

Now therefore, the Equal Rights Amendment is hereby proclaimed by this body to be a just and natural implementation of American democratic justice, and do hereby go on record as being in full support of reintroducing the ERA in the Oklahoma State Legislature and urging Legislators to make the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment a high legislative priority in 2007.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution, upon its approval, be presented to the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and to the President Pro Tem of the Oklahoma Senate.

Signed this 5th day of May, 2007

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda L. Turnbull". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Linda Turnbull, President

Oklahoma Federation of Business and Professional Women