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Introduced by

Representatives Powers Hannley: Andrade, Blackwater-Nygren, Bolding,
Butler, Cano, Dalessandro, DeGrazia, Epstein, Fernandez B, Hernandez D,
Jermaine, Liguori, Longdon, Mathis, Pawlik, Quiñonez, Schwiebert, Solorio,
Senators Gabaldon, Stahl Hamilton, Terán

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REMOVE THE DEADLINE FOR RATIFICATION
OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed amendment to
4 the United States Constitution that would enshrine the concept of women's
5 equality and create a national legal standard for the elimination of sex
6 discrimination in the United States Constitution; and

7 Whereas, originally authored by prominent suffragist and National
8 Woman's Party leader Alice Paul, the ERA was first introduced in Congress
9 in 1923 and again in every congressional session until it passed in 1972;
10 and

11 Whereas, after it passed by a two-thirds vote of both the House and
12 Senate, the ERA, like every proposed amendment was sent to each state's
13 legislature for ratification. Congress, however, had imposed a seven-year
14 deadline on the ratification process in the preamble of the
15 ERA. Three-fourths of the states, or 38 states, must ratify a proposed
16 amendment for it to become part of the U.S. Constitution. By January 1977,
17 35 states had ratified the ERA; and

18 Whereas, with the seven-year deadline approaching, women's rights
19 activists, led by the National Organization for Women (NOW), took to the
20 streets to demand removal of the timeline. Tens of thousands demonstrated
21 in Washington, D.C. in 1978 as a result of NOW's comprehensive campaign,
22 and thousands more sent telegrams to Congress, shutting down Western
23 Union. Congress eventually granted an extension of the deadline until
24 June 30, 1982, but the ERA opposition managed to hold back ratification in
25 the 15 remaining states; and

26 Whereas, the 15 states that failed to ratify the ERA are Alabama,
27 Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi,
28 Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah and
29 Virginia; and

30 Whereas, the resolution to remove the deadline for ratification of
31 the ERA would rescind the time limit in the preamble to the 1972 ERA; and

32 Whereas, the text of the United States Constitution lays out the
33 process for its own amendment, and nothing in the Constitution places a
34 time limit on the ratification process. In fact, the 27th Amendment to
35 the United States Constitution was ratified in May 1992, nearly 203 years
36 after being first submitted to the states in September 1789. In addition,
37 the original time limit placed on ERA ratification was imposed by Congress
38 in the preamble, which states do not vote on in order to ratify the
39 amendment; and

40 Whereas, ERA activists in unratified states are working to clear a
41 path for the ERA. On March 22, 2017, forty-five years to the day after
42 Congress passed the ERA, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify it.
43 Illinois and Virginia followed suit in 2018 and 2020, respectively; and

1 Whereas, ERA activists continue to mobilize support for
2 constitutional equality. Over the past several years, grassroots ERA
3 activists have also organized in Florida, Utah and North Carolina to push
4 for ratification of the federal ERA.
5 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
6 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:
7 1. That the United States Congress take steps to remove the
8 deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.
9 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
10 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the
11 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of
12 Congress from the State of Arizona.