

ACTION BRIEF



The Equal Rights Amendment: A “Start-Over Strategy”

NOW Urges That:

- U.S. Senators cosponsor and vote yes on **Senate Joint Resolution 6**, which is a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting the United States or any state from denying or abridging equal rights under the law on account of sex.
- U.S. Representatives co-sponsor and vote yes on **House Joint Resolution 33** which is a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment declaring that women shall have equal rights and prohibiting the U.S. or any state from denying or abridging equal rights under the law on account of sex.

Overview

The **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** ensures that gender equity is codified in the United States Constitution. Though passed by Congress in 1972, and ratified by 35 of the 38 States necessary for passage; the deadline for ratification passed in 1982. **Senate Journal Resolution 6 and House Joint Resolution 33 seek to reintroduce the ERA** as a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution, effectively restarting the ratification process.

Why the Need for an ERA?

Equality in pay, job opportunities, political structure, education, health care including reproductive health care, and education--in particular for women of color, women with disabilities and the LGBTQIA community--will remain an elusive dream without a guarantee in the U.S. Constitution. The progress we have made—and must continue to make—towards women’s equality can be lost at any time because those advances depend on legislation that can be (and has been) weakened or repealed by Congress. Given the current political climate, this is more of a concern than ever.

Support For Gender Equity Is Widely Supported In The United States

An April 2012 poll for Daily Kos and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) found that **91% of Americans believe that men and women should have equal rights affirmed by the Constitution.** A 2001 Opinion Research Corporation poll showed that **72% of the respondents mistakenly assumed that the Constitution already includes such a guarantee.**

It is imperative that the rights of all women are once and for all protected by the United States Constitution.

Sources

¹The Equal Rights Amendment: Unfinished Business for the Constitution, “[ERA Ratification Bills in the 115th Congress](#)” *The Equal Rights Amendment*, Web. 24 Feb. 2017.

²Francis, Roberta W. and Bettina Hager, “[Why We Need The Equal Rights Amendment.](#)” National Council of Women’s Organizations, Mar. 2013 Web. 24 Feb. 2017.