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2024-2025 ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING CONSTITUTIONAL EQUALITY

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment, (ERA) was first introduced in United States (U.S.) Congress in 1923, proposed by 2/3 of the members of the U.S. Congress, and ratified by the necessary 38 States; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment has now met all the requirements, but still has not been enshrined in the U.S. Constitution as the 28th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment has not yet been certified and published by the U.S. Archivist; and

WHEREAS, resolutions have been introduced in the House (HJ Res. 25) and the Senate (SJ Res. 4) in the 118th Congress to recognize the ERA as ratified and placed in the U.S. Constitution as the 28th Amendment and to explicitly state that the timeline which was only in the preamble of the Amendment has no binding impact; and

WHEREAS, HJ Res. 25 is blocked in the House Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, House key sponsor, Ayanna Pressley, has introduced a discharge petition to move HJ Res. 25 to the House floor for a vote to recognize that it has been ratified; and

WHEREAS, a discharge petition requires 218 members of the House to sign it in order to send the legislation to the floor for a vote and all 214 Democrats have signed it;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) must continue to work to gain the 4 more House member signatures on the discharge petition in this session of the U.S. Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW National, State organizations, and local Chapters work together with the ERA Coalition and Sign for ERA petition drive and other allied groups to pass the discharge petition in the House with a 218 vote majority and bring it to the House floor for passage; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that immediately after a successful House passage, NOW will put all of its efforts immediately to secure passage in the Senate where we have 53 co-sponsors (a majority of the Senate) to enshrine it in the U.S. Constitution.

Submitted to Issue Hearing Constitutional Equality originally by Katherine "Kobby" Hoffman, Charlottesville NOW, 434-295-2566 and ExecutiveVP@vanow.org. Friendly substitute amendment by Ellie Smeal, Virginia NOW and Advisor to National NOW Board, 571-426-9944 and elliesmeal@feministmajority.org.