



Concerned Women for America of Illinois Opposes HJRCA 1 - ERA

“Equality of rights under law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this article. This Amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.” (Text of HJRCA 1 - emphasis added)

- ERA **is not about equal rights**. If it were, it would be a duplicate of the Fourteenth Amendment. Rather, ERA will **remove all legal distinctions between sexes**.
- If ratified to the U.S. Constitution, ERA would become the law of the land and **supersede state laws**.
- From 1972 to 1982, the **Illinois General Assembly voted on ERA 13 times**. Each time they **wisely voted it down**.
- **Time Limit for ratification of ERA ended** in 1979.
- Under ERA, women would be pushed into front line **military combat**. After eight months of research, hearings and fact-finding trips, the 1992 Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces concluded that the Armed Forces should not assign women to combat. Such assignments would adversely affect military readiness, cohesion and effectiveness.
- ERA would force states to recognize **same-sex marriage**. In 1993, based on Hawaii’s ERA, denying a marriage license to a homosexual couple “on account of sex” was found unconstitutional. It took voters five years and millions of dollars to pass another constitutional amendment to undo this.
- ERA would **force states to pay for Medicaid abortions** and put an end to attempts at passing parental notification and consent laws to protect minor girls. Connecticut and New Mexico ERAs are proof of this type of legislation. ERA proponents themselves killed ERA legislation In Wisconsin and Minnesota that included abortion neutral clauses.
- All state and local laws, policies and regulations favoring either males or females would be unconstitutional under ERA. Laws including marriage, divorce, family-property law, child custody, adoptions, abortions, alimony, some criminal laws, age limits for marriage and the age of consent, public and private schools, prison regulations, and insurance rates, veterans benefits, boy and girl scouts, tax exemptions for single-sex schools would be challenged if ERA is passed.

There is virtually no limit to the number and kind of lawsuits that ERA will spawn. To use the law to eliminate the innate differences between male and female is as absurd as using the law to eliminate the rising and setting of the sun. It is impossible.

Concerned Women for America of Illinois urges the Senate members to vote NO on HJRCA 1.

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of Illinois**

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