

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 14, 1982

Dear Colleague:

As the final months for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment draw near, a massive effort is being undertaken to achieve ratification. Only a handful of votes is needed to make this effort a success. Whatever the outcome, we remain committed to the Equal Rights Amendment and intend, if the deadline passes, to reintroduce the Equal Rights Amendment in the Senate on July 1. The need for an Amendment is no less urgent today than it was in 1972, when the ratification process began. While there has been significant progress over the last 10 years in ending discrimination against women, many of these advances have come in anticipation of passage of the Amendment. To let this effort falter now would be disastrous.

At present, the legal rights of women are dependent on legislation, executive action, and interpretation by the courts. None of the rights gained in this way has the guarantee of permanence that a Constitutional Amendment would provide. As recent history demonstrates, such rights can be eroded. For examples of potential erosion, we have only to look to recent legislative and regulatory proposals to limit affirmative action and Title IX, proposals which would weaken women's rights in the areas of employment and education, among others. In addition, the courts have consistently failed to apply the Fourteenth Amendment to discrimination based on sex with the same force that it applies to distinctions based on race.

Public opinion polls have shown consistently that an overwhelming majority of Americans support the principle of equal rights for women. The Amendment has been ratified by 35 states.

We ask you to join with us in reintroducing the Amendment so that the 51.4% of Americans who are female may be granted the Constitutional guarantee of full and equal citizenship.


The text of the Amendment follows:

- Sec. 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.
- Sec. 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.
- Sec. 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

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If you have any questions or would like to be a co-sponsor of the Amendment, please contact Randy Naiman at 4-2742.

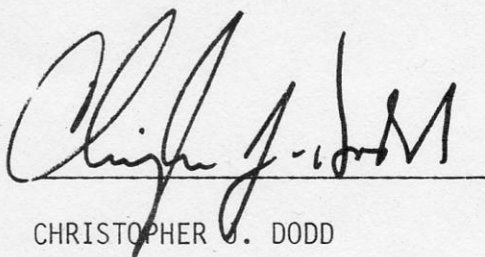
Sincerely,



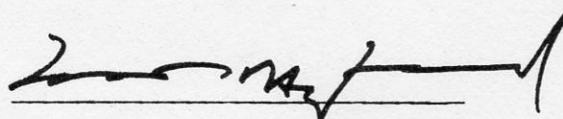
BOB PACKWOOD



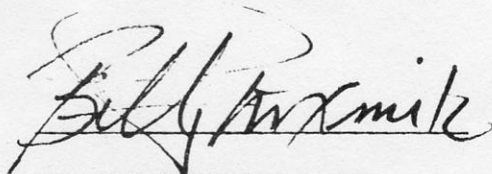
PAUL E. TSONGAS



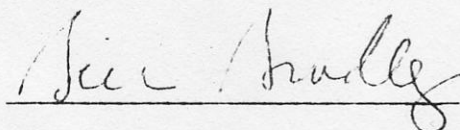
CHRISTOPHER O. DODD



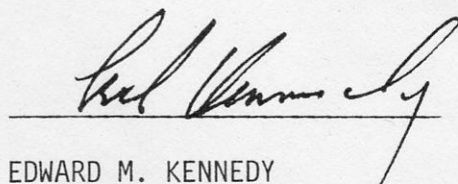
MARK O. HATFIELD



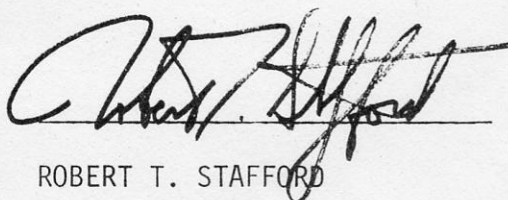
WILLIAM PROXMIRE



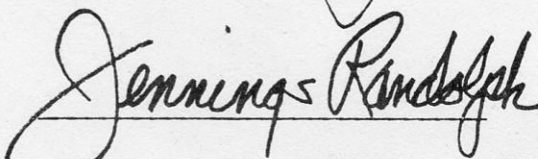
BILL BRADLEY



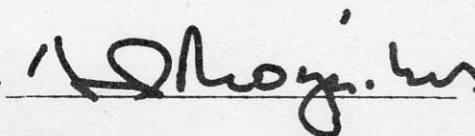
EDWARD M. KENNEDY



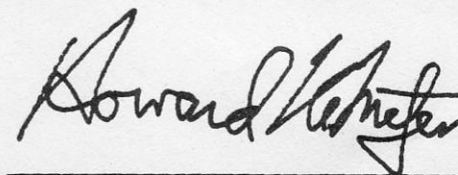
ROBERT T. STAFFORD



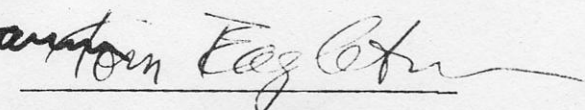
JENNINGS RANDOLPH



DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN



HOWARD M. METZENBAUM



THOMAS F. EAGLETON

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Henry M Jackson

HENRY M. JACKSON

Carl Levin

CARL LEVIN

Joseph R. Biden

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

GARY HART

GARY HART

Patrick H Leahy

PATRICK H. LEAHY

John H Chafee

JOHN H. CHAFEE

Charles McC Mathias

CHARLES McC. MATHIAS

John Glenn

JOHN GLENN

Alan Cranston

ALAN CRANSTON

Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.

LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR.

Donald W. Riegle, Jr.

DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR.

Paul Sarbanes

PAUL S. SARBANES

Additional Co-Sponsors to ERA:

Senator Heinz (4/14/82)

Senator Cohen (4/16/82)

Senator Mitchell (4/19/82)

Senator Pell (4/20/82)

Senator Burdick (4/20/82)

Senator Matsunaga (4/22/82)

Senator Melcher (4/22/82) contact: Natalie Cannon 4-4219 (worked for yrs. on ERA)

Senator Inouye (4/22/82)

Senator Stevens (4/23/82)

Senator Boschwitz (5/19/82)

Senator Hollings (5/24/82)