
For immediate release:

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Equal Rights Amendment Bills Introduced at NC General Assembly

Durham, NC – On Tuesday, February 14th, bills supporting North Carolina’s ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment were introduced in both houses of the North Carolina General Assembly. Senator Floyd McKissick, Jr., introduced SB 85 and Representative Carla Cunningham introduced HB 102. Both bills have multiple co-sponsors.

“In my opinion, it is absolutely absurd that we have not already passed the Equal Rights Amendment,” said Senator McKissick, “since it is obvious to me that women should be viewed equal to men in the eyes of the law.” McKissick already anticipates likely arguments against the ERA will claim an adverse affect on business, but he says, “so be it! If that’s the criteria they use for evaluation, I guess they would never have abolished slavery, either.”

ERA bills have been introduced in eleven of the states that did not ratify the ERA during its original push between 1972 and 1982. If three additional states approve ratification, that would reach the required 38 states necessary to amend the Constitution. Even though none of those bills sponsored since 1982 have passed, Representative Cunningham says that’s no reason to stop pushing for the ERA. “We just need to be persistent,” she says, noting the outpouring of women in Washington and across the nation during the Women’s March in January. “We will fully be acknowledged for our contributions to our state and our country when the principle of equal rights is written into the framework of our government. I say persist!”

Follow the progress of the ERA bills in the NC General Assembly online:

- SB 85 is at <http://bit.ly/2kqu7DR>
- HB 102 is at <http://bit.ly/2ILa2sa>

A video of the news conference announcing the introduction of the bills, including additional speakers, is online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lIKQJc7jOQw>.

The ERA-NC Alliance is pursuing support for ratification of the ERA among counties and municipalities across the state. Currently Durham and Orange Counties, and the municipalities of Durham, Winston-Salem, Duck, Nags Head, Kitty Hawk, Manteo, and Kill Devil Hills have adopted resolutions supporting ratification of the ERA.

ERA-NC Alliance co-chairs Roberta Madden and Marena Groll are available for interviews. We will be happy to help line up interviews with other board members, who also represent our lead and member organizations.

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About the ERA-NC Alliance:

The ERA-NC Alliance is a non-partisan, non-profit organization seeking ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. constitution. Membership is open to individuals and organizations committed to ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Lead organizations include the American Association of University Women of NC, Democratic Women of NC, League of Women Voters of NC, NC4ERA, NC Business and Professional Women, NC National Organization for Women, NC Women United, Ratify ERA- NC and the Women’s Forum of NC. The Alliance operates in direct collaboration with the national ERA Coalition (www.eracoalition.org).