

P.O. Box 11712
Durham, NC 27703
www.era-nc.org



For Immediate Release
Contact: Audrey Muck, info@era-nc.org, 336-480-1947

NC women call for equal rights following Nevada's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

Women's equal rights advocates will call on the leaders of both chambers to take action on current ERA bills sitting in Committees on Rules.

(Raleigh, NC) March 23, 2017 – Members from various organizations supporting equal rights for women in North Carolina will be in the gallery of the legislative House Chamber at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 27 when Representative Carla Cunningham will recognize the work of all women and men to secure equal rights and congratulate the ten counties and municipalities that have passed an ERA resolution. Adoptions of ERA resolutions are rolling across the state since record-setting numbers of women's rights advocates participated in the historic Women's March in DC in January of this year.

Rep. Cunningham is the primary sponsor of H102, state ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The recognition of the work by women and men for equality would come on the heels of the historic ratification of the ERA by Nevada, this week, after more than 40 years since its passage by Congress.

A press conference is scheduled for earlier in the day on Monday, March 27 at 3:00 pm in the press room of the legislature. Legislators and members of organizations supporting women's rights will call upon the leadership of the House and Senate to prioritize action on H102 and S85, Senator Floyd B. McKissick's bill to ratify the ERA.

Currently, H102 and S85 sit unheard in the Rules Committees of both chambers. Supporters are advocating that the bills be re-assigned to committees where they will become a priority to be heard.

Rep. Cunningham praised the development saying, "This week, Nevada took an historic step on the Equal Rights Amendment. The supporters of the amendment in North Carolina believe it is never too late to bring equality to all."

Roberta Madden, ERA-NC Alliance, Co-President pointed out that, "The vote in Nevada in both legislative chambers was bi-partisan and the state's Republican Governor supported the ERA. She believes that, "The time is right for lawmakers of both parties to endorse constitutional equality for women and men in North Carolina and in the other unratified states."

Advocates believe the emerging national push for the ERA signals a new energy in the women's rights movement. Marena Groll, ERA-NC Alliance, Co-President, noting the significance of the achievement said, "We are witnessing an historic shift, a new wave for women's rights in America."

NC was not one of the 35 states that ratified the ERA during the campaign from 1972 through 1982. The nation fell 3 states short of the 38 states needed to pass it before a heavily disputed and sure to be challenged deadline expired. Supporters note that passage of the ERA by Nevada would represent a legal push back against the artificial deadline and result in only two more states being needed to ratify the ERA to have women's rights included in the U.S. Constitution.

###

About the ERA-NC Alliance:

Membership is open to individuals and organizations committed to the 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, NC 4 ERA, NC Business & 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).