

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R24-1116.01 Katelyn Guderian x3205

SR24-004

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Cutter and Fields,

Senate Committees

SENATE RESOLUTION 24-004

101 **CONCERNING THE EFFORT TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND ENSHRINE IN THE**
102 **CONSTITUTION THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES.**

1 WHEREAS, This year marks the 101st anniversary of when the
2 Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was initially proposed in Congress.
3 Many things about American life have changed since then, and there is
4 now widespread bipartisan support of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

5 WHEREAS, The strides made over these past 101 years are not
6 inconsequential, but are still piecemeal when compared to the
7 straightforward declaration of the ERA, which simply states: "Equality of
8 rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States
9 or by any state on account of sex"; and

10 WHEREAS, We know that women's rights, on multiple levels, are
11 still being challenged. Bodily autonomy, equal pay, and protection from
12 sexual harassment are still being denied; and

13 WHEREAS, Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, the Brennan Center's Women
14 and Democracy Fellow, noted that the ERA would empower Congress "to
15 enforce gender equity through legislation and, more generally, the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 creation of a social framework to formally acknowledge systemic biases
2 that permeate and often limit women's daily experiences"; and

3 WHEREAS, Among 193 United Nations member states, 85% have
4 a provision in their constitution that specifically addresses gender
5 equality, and 60% have a provision that prohibits discrimination on the
6 basis of sex; and

7 WHEREAS, In January 2023, at the beginning of the new
8 Congressional Session, identical joint resolutions were introduced in both
9 the House (H.J.Res.25) and in the Senate (S.J.Res.4), stating in the
10 preamble that "notwithstanding any time limit", the ERA is valid, having
11 been ratified by 38 states; and

12 WHEREAS, The ERA was first passed by Congress more than 50
13 years ago, and three out of four adults in the United States are in favor of
14 adding the ERA to the Constitution; and

15 WHEREAS, Courts and legislative bodies can change, so it is
16 imperative that women's rights are properly enshrined in the Constitution;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The ERA would transform what is currently implicit
19 into the unambiguous and strengthen the bedrock of our most dearly held
20 American value, that all people are created equal. As one of the first
21 states to allow women to vote, several years before the 19th amendment
22 gave all women in America this right, Colorado has proudly stood by and
23 for women. It is long past time to fill the full measure of this storied
24 history and enshrine the ERA into the U.S. Constitution; and

25 WHEREAS, Coloradans and all American women deserve this
26 basic protection of their inherent freedom; now, therefore,

27 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General*
28 *Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

29 (1) That women have fought long and hard to have their rights
30 recognized;

31 (2) That women and those identifying as women are still subject
32 to pay, pregnancy, and other forms of discrimination; and

1 (3) That, having received the ratification of the 38 states required,
2 it is time for the United States Congress to pass the Equal Rights
3 Amendment.