

Resolution Supporting the Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution

Submitted to the Arizona Democratic Party State Committee – May 9th Meeting

WHEREAS—The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)—a Constitutional Amendment guaranteeing women’s equality under US law—was introduced into the US Congress in 1923 and sent to the states for ratification in 1972. After 92 years in process, the ERA is still three votes shy of ratification, and Arizona is one of the states that has not ratified it yet,

WHEREAS – Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia confirmed that women are not currently protected class under the US Constitution and that the 14th Amendment does not protect against sex discrimination,

WHEREAS—Women are subject to widespread wage discrimination, with women earning 77 cents for every dollar paid to men overall and with Latinas making 55 cents for every dollar earned by non-Hispanic white men and African American women earning 64 cents for every dollar earned by non-Hispanic white men. As a result, approximately 18 million American women—most of them single mothers—live in poverty with their dependent children,

WHEREAS—At the current pace, women will not gain wage parity until 2058, which means that most women working today will not see pay equity in their lifetimes. Economists suggest that closing the gender wage gap would create an economic stimulus for the US,

WHEREAS—The Arizona Legislature has passed oppressive laws that discriminate against women by denying or inhibiting provision of legal medical services; eliminating funding for women’s health services; prohibiting women from purchasing their own insurance if it pays for abortions; allowing employers to deny insurance coverage for contraception, abortion, and other women’s health services; or otherwise hurting women and children.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arizona Democratic Party request, in writing, of all Arizona Democratic Party state legislators that they assure a bill ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment be introduced in the Arizona Legislature each year until the ERA becomes an amendment to the US Constitution.

ERA Why

<http://www.equalrightsamendment.org/why.htm>

Pay equity and discrimination

<http://www.iwpr.org/initiatives/pay-equity-and-discrimination>

wage gap

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/29/wage-gap-african-american-women-infographic_n_2568838.html