

ERA Resolution
Adopted by Zonta Club of _____

Whereas; Zonta Club of _____, founded in _____, is an organization of professional and executives, affiliated with Zonta International, founded in 1919; and

Whereas; members of Zonta Club of _____ and Zonta International are dedicated to improving the legal, political, economic, educational, health, and professional status of women and to eradicating violence against women and children, and ensuring the equality of women in all areas of life through community and international service and advocacy; and

Whereas, most citizens believe in equality for men and women and assume that the Constitution guarantees women full and equal citizenship, however

Whereas; American women were not included as full and equal citizens in the original United States Constitution, and today the right to vote (granted by the 19th Amendment in 1920) is the ONLY right that the Constitution specifically affirms as equal for women and men; and

Whereas; the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause has never been consistently interpreted to grant equal rights on the basis of sex; and

Whereas; despite the passage of numerous anti-discrimination laws and their extension to address discrimination based on sex, differing state laws and court decisions have created an inconsistent and confusing pattern of women's rights across the nation so that women as a class are not assured of fair legal treatment; and

Whereas; state and federal laws do not have the same moral or legal force as a federal Constitutional guarantee; and

Whereas, the constitutions of many other nations specifically affirm the legal equality of men and women and the United States government has insisted that such nations as Afghanistan and Iraq include provisions affirming women's legal equality in their new constitutions;

BE IT RESOLVED, therefore, that Zonta Club of _____ is on record as supporting the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, to wit:

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.

And therefore be it resolved that Zonta Club of _____ strongly urges the members of the _____ Legislature to vote for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and thereby ensure that American women will henceforth be guaranteed full and equal citizenship.

Adopted _____ 2009 by Zonta Club of _____

_____, **President**