

November 20, 2018  
Regular Meeting  
Resolution No. 18-

**MOTION:**

**SECOND:**

**RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RATIFICATION BY VIRGINIA OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.**

**ACTION:**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee equal rights and equal protection for the sexes; and

**WHEREAS**, the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and state constitutional statements of equality generally do not provide the strict scrutiny for sex-based classifications that is provided for classifications based on race, religion, and national origin; and

**WHEREAS**, state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive, and these laws can be repealed or reduced; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of the United States continue to experience the negative effects of lack of political parity between men and women, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults;

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), passed by Congress in 1972, and ratified by 37 states, provides that "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

**WHEREAS**, the time limit for the ERA appears only in the preamble; and Congress presently is considering a bill that removes the time limit for ratification of the ERA; and

**WHEREAS**, for 47 years, the Virginia State Constitution has sought to protect Virginians from discrimination by the Commonwealth on the basis of sex; and

**WHEREAS**, Prince William County enforces principles of fair treatment of its employment applicants and employees without discrimination on the basis of sex, and prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Prince William County Board of Supervisors supports the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Prince William County Board of Supervisors urges the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, during the 2019 legislative session, to ratify the ERA to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.

ATTACHMENTS: Not Applicable

**Votes:**

**Ayes:**

**Nays:**

**Absent From Vote:**

**Absent From Meeting:**

**For Information:**