

Chairperson Kasper and Members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Committee,

My name is Kristin Rubbelke, and I am Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, North Dakota Chapter (NASW-ND). On behalf of NASW-ND, we ask that you oppose SCR 4010 due to its discriminatory nature and the previous reaffirming ratification in 2007.

The ERA is designed to necessitate place guards (via the Constitution) permitting all citizens have equal legal rights regardless of sex or gender. Removing the ERA only causes disadvantages to populations (e.g., females) that already face significant obstacles in society.

In ratifying the ERA in the United States Constitution, it increases the crucial necessity of sex and gender equality, spanning across a spectrum of society justice. It pushes for the enactment of legislation that would protect against discrimination and violence based on sex or gender. It also assists in tackling discrimination in government, education, law enforcement, and the military.

North Dakota ratified the ERA in 1975, reaffirming the ratification in 2007. The ND 2007 resolution passed by the ND Legislative Assembly states that “affirming the equal application of the United States Constitution to all citizens through the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; declaring Friday, March 9, 2007, North Dakota Equal Rights Amendment Recognition Day; and encouraging a recommitment to the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in all states and final passage in Congress.” As a result, SCR 4010 counteracts relatively recent legislation.

The only laws affected by the ERA are those that discriminate. Women’s rights are under ongoing threats and constitutional safeguards, such as the ERA, are required to protect gains women have made. Referencing the NASW Code of Ethics (4.02), “Social workers should not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, political belief, religion, or mental or physical disability.”

On behalf of NASW-ND, I thank you for your consideration and ask that you oppose SCR 4010.

Sincerely,



Kristin Rubbelke
Executive Director
NASW-ND