

House of Representatives
Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
North Dakota Legislature

March 17, 2021

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

Please vote NO in SCR4010.

When I was a young mother in 1973 working in student affairs at NDSU. I became involved in the effort to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. I gave speeches, testified, wrote letters, and generally got a political baptism. I remember vividly that we felt everything depended on the Republican Senate Majority Leader at the time, Senator Warner Litten of Fargo. He turned out to be a tremendous champion. I got to know some amazing Republican women, including national committeewoman Gerridee Wheeler and Senator Aloha Eagles.

Back then, the opponents said it would lead to unisex bathrooms, gay marriage, women in combat - all kinds of scare tactics, and all of them happened anyway! It's not a law, it's "just" a principle - the most fundamental principle in every kindergarten: fairness.

I hope you will champion equality by voting against HCR 4010. ERA benefits men, too, as in having access to paternity leave or opportunity for custody of children in divorce. Gender equality is in the constitution of 168 nations around the world. The federal government will have to settle the deadline issue - it's not up to the states. Our legislature has no need to make a statement.

Please Vote NO on 4010.

Thank you for your service,

Ellen Chaffee
Bismarck North Dakota
District 8