

Brandi Hardy
Testimony on SCR 4010
March 18th, 2021

RE: In Opposition SCR 4010

Greetings Chairman Kasper and Committee members,

My name is Brandi Hardy. I am the Legislative Coordinator for the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition.

Today, I am here to urge the committee to vote DO NOT PASS on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4010, an effort to rescind the 1975 ratification for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). An amendment that would insert the language "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex" into the United States Constitution.

Our nation was founded in the pursuit of equality and fairness. So what values of discrimination are being held onto so dearly that keeps our ND legislators so willing to create a chamber of hate? Bravery, not fear, drives this country's best decisions and that should be the same for ND legislators.

When this bill was heard on the Senate side, it became very obvious there was a wealth of misinformation that was an attempt to pigeon hole the true purpose of the ERA.

1) Our Military: Rescinding the ERA would protect women from the draft. I became an Operations Iraqi Freedom veteran with the US Army three years before I could drink a beer. To suggest women are incapable or too fragile for the draft is ridiculous and offensive.

The United States has fought two consecutive wars, and the draft has never been enacted for either. If we are worried about the fragility of women, then it makes MORE sense to SUPPORT the ERA because it would SIGNIFICANTLY reduce the sexual assault cases of women and men, in our Armed Forces.

2) Abortion: Although I am not the expert to speak to this, I would be remiss not to address it. Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision that established a woman's legal right to an abortion, was decided on January 22, 1973. The Court ruled, in a 7-2 decision, that a woman's right to choose an abortion was protected by the privacy rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

3) The Genderless Agenda. The ERA will lead to a genderless society. This fearful and ignorant propaganda creates an environment where people within the LGBTQ+ community continue to be abused and murdered. This misguided attempt to demonize the queer community is tragic and does not represent the ERA or North Dakota citizens.

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The ERA means the right to education and the right to credit. ERA means there is equal access to housing and employment. ERA means that there is equal support for sexual assault and domestic violence victims.

Like many of you, I have a daughter. I hope someday our daughters would be able to go to the school of their choice, make FAIR and EQUAL wages and have many more opportunities without her gender being viewed as a weakness.

Betty White once said **“Butterflies Are Like Women - We May Look Pretty And Delicate, But We Can Fly Through A Hurricane.”**

Equality cannot be left to the political whims of who is sitting in the seat of today. As in past years, North Dakota had an opportunity to do what was right. In this case, we have an opportunity to fight for the futures of all of our children in our state.

This is why I urge the committee to vote DO NOT PASS Senate Concurrent Resolution 4010.

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