

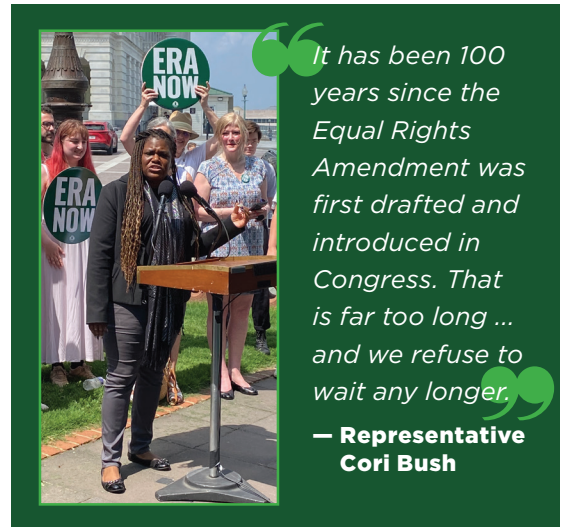
ERA NOW

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

- Are you in favor of equal rights for all Americans?
- Are you aware that the Equal Rights Amendment has met all requirements for a constitutional amendment, finally guaranteeing all Americans equal rights regardless of sex?
- Are you aware that for three years the federal government has sidestepped certifying the Equal Rights Amendment and publishing it as part of the U.S. Constitution?

The Maryland Chapter of National Organization for Women (Maryland NOW) has resources available to inform you about the status of the Equal Rights Amendment and why it is needed now more than ever.



OBJECTIVE

WHY IS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT NEEDED?

- The ERA ensures the U.S. Constitution includes **a clear expectation of sex equality in all aspects of life.**
- For decades, women have found legal recourse for sex discrimination under protections in the 14th Amendment. However, **in 2022 the Supreme Court assumed a more rigid interpretation of 14th Amendment protections asserting they do not apply to issues of sex discrimination, contraception, or same-sex marriage.** The ERA not only restores these protections, but strengthens them.
- The ERA gives Congress greater **power to enact laws that provide stronger protections against sexual assault and domestic violence.**
- **Without the ERA ... victims of sex discrimination have a harder time seeking legal recourse** because courts are not required to apply the same high standards of scrutiny in sex discrimination cases as the U.S. Constitution requires for discrimination based on race, national origin, or religion.
- **Without the ERA ... state and federal legislation advancing sex equality can be readily repealed or replaced** and state-level amendments guaranteeing sex equality (such as Maryland's ERA) can be overridden.
- **Without the ERA ...** the United States has fallen out of the top third of countries internationally when ranked by gender equality, and **the U.S. is ranked as the 10th most dangerous country in the world for women.**



Maryland NOW Equal Rights Amendment Task Force
ERA@MarylandNOW.org www.MarylandNOW.org

What is Holding the Equal Rights Amendment Back?

Although the ERA has met all requirements for a constitutional amendment, the Trump Administration declared the final three state ratifications invalid because they came after the time limit that was contained in the preamble to the ERA. To date, neither the Trump nor Biden Administration has directed the Archivist of the U.S. to certify and publish the ERA as part of the U.S. Constitution. President Biden has asked Congress to officially affirm the ERA is valid and remove the time limit for ratification, and he has indicated once this is done he will direct the Archivist to certify and publish it. Maryland NOW is confident Marylanders can unite to increase public awareness and urge Congress to meet the President's request.

ACTION

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Sign a petition** such as the Sign4ERA.org petition urging Congress to affirm the ERA.
- **Talk it up!** Share this document to start conversations with family, friends, colleagues, and others.
- **Educate your children** (minors and adults) about the ERA.
- **Broadcast on social media** to increase awareness and send a link to the Sign4ERA.org petition.
- **Stay informed** by joining ERA-focused organizations or following them on social media (#ERANOW, #ERA100, #28THAmendment, @ERACoalition, @ERACaucus).
- **Donate funds or your time** to ERA-focused organizations such as Maryland NOW, VoteEquality, Equal Means Equal.
- **Contact your members of Congress** to urge them to support resolutions to affirm the ERA. Visit marylandnow.org/take-action-for-the-era/ for a list of U.S. Senators and House Representatives to contact and the names of the resolutions we are urging them to support. Identify friends and colleagues who live in the Congressional districts these legislators represent, and encourage them to contact these legislators, too. Hold members of Congress accountable for their positions on these resolutions!
- **Join the Maryland NOW ERA Task Force.** Contact ERA@MarylandNOW.org for more information.



ERA Centennial Convention, Seneca Falls, NY - July 21, 2023

For more information about the Equal Rights Amendment, including local events, actions you can take, and recent publications, visit <https://marylandnow.org/take-action-for-the-era/>