

**AAUW**  
**American Association of University Women**  
**Lake/Sumter (FL) Branch**

**Public Policy: Equal Rights Amendment (September 2022)**



To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. It states:

"Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

"Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

The majority of Americans mistakenly believe that women and men have equal rights *under the Constitution*.

The first version of ERA was written in the 1920s by Alice Paul, a suffragist. Kate Kelly, an attorney and ERA advocate states, "We will not have permanent protections if we are not in the Constitution."

The time for constitutional protections for gender has never been more urgent. The lack of constitutional equality reaches every aspect of women's lives. The ERA will clarify, once and for all, that sex discrimination in employment and wages, reproductive rights, insurance, Social Security, education, and more is a violation of constitutional rights. The Constitutional Amendment will outlast every person on the Supreme Court.

Women in the United States have waited long enough for the ERA to be fully ratified. We cannot wait for equality any longer! Send a message to your Senators urging their support for the ratification of the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT!

Rick Scott, 202-224-5274, [rickscott.senate.gov/contact\\_rick](https://rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick)  
Marco Rubio, 202-224-3041, [rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact](https://rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact)