

Congress of the United States  
Office of the Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 21, 1971

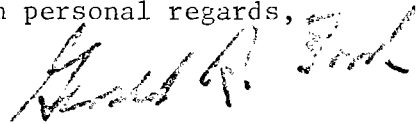
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Although floor consideration on H. J. Res. 208, the proposed constitutional amendment guaranteeing "equal rights for men and women," has been postponed for a few days, it will be before the House in the very near future.

I have repeatedly been asked for the views of your Administration on this question and I would be very appreciative of an authoritative statement from you before the debate begins.

Warm personal regards,



Gerald R. Ford, M. C.

GRF:rn

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Gerry:

You have asked my position with respect to the Equal Rights Amendment, soon to be considered by the House.

As you remember, as a Senator in 1951 I co-sponsored a Resolution proposing the Amendment; in 1968 I reaffirmed my support for it as a candidate for the Presidency.

Throughout twenty years I have not altered my belief that equal rights for women warrant a Constitutional guarantee - and I therefore support the enactment of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Sincerely,

Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
Office of the Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Pending Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Item veto  
Change the dates of Congressional meetings  
Provide for the emergency functioning of Congress  
Compel testimony from criminal defendants (amending the 5th Amendment)  
Declaring an unalienable right to a good environment  
Protect references to God (on coins, pledges, etc.)  
Abolish the income tax  
Popular election of judges  
Periodic reconfirmation of Judges  
Setting up specific qualifications for judicial appointments  
Change the qualification for members of Congress  
Provide a 4-year term for House Members  
Reduce the Senate term to 4 years  
Authorize prayers in public buildings  
National preferential Presidential primary  
Add "So help me God" to the Presidential oath  
Denying employment to subversives in public schools  
Apportionment of State legislatures  
To prevent "interference" with the States  
Requiring 2/3 vote of the Supreme Court to invalidate State or Federal laws  
Mandatory Supreme Court requirement age  
Setting qualifications for Supreme Court nominees  
Providing that the Chief Justice shall report to Congress annually  
Require the consent of the House to Treaties and Executive Agreements  
Require the consent of Congress to Executive Agreements  
Standards for welfare payments

Proposed Amendments with Significant Support

Equal Rights  
Busing  
School Prayer  
Limiting the tenure of federal judges  
Voting representation for D. C.  
Direct election of the President  
Modifying the Electoral College