

The original documents are located in Box 47, folder “Women - Equal Rights Amendment - General” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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**You Can't
Fool
Mother
Nature**



Equal Rights Amendment

ERA Will Hurt The Family:

ERA will invalidate all state laws which require a husband to support his wife. ERA will impose on women the equal (50%) financial obligation to support their spouses (under criminal penalties, just like husbands).

ERA will impose on mothers the equal (50%) financial obligation for the financial support of their infant and minor children.

ERA will deprive senior women, who have spent many years in the home as wife and mother, of their present right to be supported by their husbands, and to be provided with a home.

ERA will eliminate the present right of a wife to draw Social Security benefits based on her husband's earnings. For a homemaker to receive benefits, her husband would be forced to pay *double* Social Security taxes on the *assumed* value of her services in the home.

ERA will compel the states to set up taxpayer-financed child-care centers for *all* children regardless of need. (See Ohio Task Force Report)

ERA will deprive state legislatures of all power to stop or regulate abortions at any time during pregnancy. ERA will give women a "constitutional" right to abortion on demand.

ERA will legalize homosexual "marriages" and permit such "couples" to adopt children and to get tax and homestead benefits now given to husbands and wives.

The Mischief Of ERA:

ERA is a big power-grab by the Federal Government. It will transfer jurisdiction over marriage, property rights, divorce, alimony, child custody, and inheritance rights out of the hands of the individual states and into the Federal bureaucrats and the Federal courts.

ERA will make women subject to the draft on an equal basis with men in all our future wars. ERA will make women and mothers subject to military combat and warship duty.

ERA will eliminate all-girls' and all-boys' schools and colleges. ERA will eliminate single-sex fraternities and sororities in high schools and on college campuses.

ERA may give the Federal Government the power to force the admission of women to seminaries equally with men, and possibly force the churches to ordain women.

ERA will deprive women in industry of their legal protections against being involuntarily assigned to heavy-lifting, strenuous, and dangerous men's jobs, and compulsory overtime.

ERA will require police departments to eliminate physical tests and to pass over qualified men so that women will be hired and assigned on a one-to-one basis.

ERA will eliminate present lower life insurance and automobile accident insurance rates for women.

What ERA Will Not Do!

ERA will **not** give women "equal pay for equal work," better paying jobs, promotions, or better working conditions. ERA can add nothing whatsoever to the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972.

ERA will **not** help women in the field of credit. This has already been mandated by the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974. On the other hand, ERA will take away from wives their present right to get credit in their husband's name.

ERA will **not** give women better educational opportunities. This has already been mandated by the Education Amendments of 1972.

ERA will **not** help women in athletics, but will require sex-integrated coed nonsense such as the recent order by the Pennsylvania courts that all high schools must permit girls and boys to compete and practice together in all sports including football and wrestling.

ERA will **not** protect privacy, but instead will prohibit privacy based on sex in public school restrooms, hospitals, public accommodations, prisons and reform schools.

With so much to lose and nothing to gain, why take a chance?

ERA is a fraud. It pretends to improve the status of women but actually is a big takeaway of the rights women now possess.

"My view that the ERA is the most destructive piece of legislation to ever pass Congress still stands. . . . The ERA would give every woman a constitutional right to have an abortion at will."

-- U.S. Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr.

"I do not wish to see -- and to vote for -- a constitutional amendment which would require all women to be equally obligated with their husbands to support the family, even though millions of women may choose to do so."

-- Congresswoman Leonor Sullivan

"I call the Equal Rights Amendment the liftin' and totin' bill. More than half of the black women with jobs work in service occupations; if the Amendment becomes law, we will be the ones liftin' and totin'."

-- Jean Noble, National Council of Negro Women

"I refuse to allow the glad-sounding ring of an easy slogan to victimize millions of women and children."

-- Congressman Emanuel Celler

"Only those who are indifferent to the exacting aspects of women's industrial life will have the naivete or the recklessness to sum up woman's whole position in a meaningless and mischievous phrase about 'Equal Rights.'"

-- Justice Felix Frankfurter

"Not only would women, including mothers, be subject to the draft, but the military would be compelled to place them in combat units alongside of men."

-- U.S. House Judiciary Committee Report, No. 92-359

Who Opposes ERA?

- 18 State Legislatures.
- 3 State Referendums.
- Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- American Legion, New York State.
- American Farm Bureau.
- National Council of Catholic Women.
- Knights of Columbus.
- Catholic Daughters of America.
- Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. (Social Concerns Committee, Commission on Theology & Church Relations).
- General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.
- Mormon Church.
- Church of Christ, dozens of congregations.
- Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations.
- Union of Orthodox Rabbis.
- Yeshiva University Alumni Association.
- Illinois PTA.
- Texas PTA.
- National School Boards Association.
- Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs.
- Florida Federation of Women's Clubs.
- New York City Federation of Women's Clubs.
- Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs.
- Conservative Party of New York.
- League of Large Families.
- Young Americans for Freedom.
- Young Republican National Federation.
- Women's Christian Temperance Union.
- Daughters of the American Revolution.
- Women For Responsible Legislation.
- Women in Industry.
- American Legislative Exchange Council.
- League of Men Voters.

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