



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
Supporting North Carolina's Ratification
of the Equal Rights Amendment**

WHEREAS, women play a critical role in families, the workplace, and in society as a whole, contributing to our economy and advancing our nation; and

WHEREAS, women continue to confront workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults, and a lack of political parity; and

WHEREAS, the US Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all the rights that it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex; and

WHEREAS, state laws and federal laws are not uniform or comprehensive and can be repealed or inadequately enforced or interpreted, and the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause has never been interpreted to guarantee equal rights for women in the same way the ERA would, by making sex a suspect category invoking strict judicial scrutiny, as race, national origin and religion do; and

WHEREAS, the ERA was proposed in 1923, passed by Congress in 1972, and, to date, has been ratified by 37 state legislatures, just one shy of the required 38 states; and

WHEREAS, ERA ratification bills have been introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly in 2019 with appropriations to educate the public regarding ERA; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to make history by being the 38th state to pass into law a bill to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners calls on Congress to pass into law bills to remove the time limit for ratification of the ERA so that ratification shall be achieved upon the affirmative vote of the required number of states that have ratified since 1972.

ADOPTED this the 18th day of March 2019.

Jessica N. Holmes, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners