

AAUW MN Public Policy
Update
January, 2022

As a result of Resolutions passed at the 2021 AAUW MN Annual meeting, the AAUW Board & Public Policy were instructed to complete the implementation process contained in the Resolutions. A Resolution regarding ERA produced a strategy to promote information shared to the progress of ERA Legislation.

Thus, I have included below, four communications I've received from the ERA Coalition. AAUW MN member action is requested. Dissemination of information and requested action also coincides with AAUW MN Strategic Plan, and thus, is a definitive goal and objective for AAUW MN.

The following communications are from Carol Jenkins, CEO and President of The ERA Coalition. Click on the areas linked to actions requested. Thank you for your vigilance. Please let me know if your branch has created actions or events related to ERA.

Women's rights are being stripped away from them. When a constitutional right relied upon for half a century could be taken away by one court ruling, we are confronted with how precarious our rights and protections are.

The Women's Health Protection Act making its way through Congress will go a long way towards shoring up women's rights. It works toward reproductive, economic, and racial justice—much like the Equal Rights Amendment.

We also need a constitutional amendment to protect us all. If you believe that women's rights are human rights, and that it must be written into the Constitution, help us make it loud and clear.

[Contact Your Senators](#)

[Sign our Petition to A.G. Garland](#)

*This could be our last best chance to codify our rights in the U.S. Constitution in a way that isn't seasonal or episodic. **We can end this debate once and for all by adding the ERA to the Constitution on January 27, 2022. That's how we will gain:***

- *Autonomy and empowerment to make our own decisions.*
- *Dignity and respect despite our difference in upbringings and values.*
- *Full equality for all regardless of our sex or identification.*

Sex equality cannot be fully realized until women have bodily autonomy. This includes reproductive access.

We're working around the clock to end the conversation on reproductive rights and sex equality once and for all. Will you join the fight for the ERA? [Contact your Senators](#) and [sign our petition](#) today.

Thank you for your support,

Carol Jenkins

CEO and President of The ERA Coalition

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We're less than one month away from one of the most important days for our movement for equality. We couldn't be more excited over here at the ERA Coalition!

Since Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment on January 27, 2020, we've been waiting for the constitutionally mandated two-year waiting period to end. January 27, 2022 marks the end of that wait.

It's the day that every constitutional requirement has been met. It marks the day that the ERA should be officially published to the Constitution. But there's one catch. Congress failed us by adding a time limit and it's the only thing that is stopping history from being made.

For more than 100 years, we have shed blood, sweat, and tears to get to this point. And we never gave up. We won't give up now when we're this close.

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January 3, 2022

Breaking News on the ERA front: Today, January 3, 2022, Attorney General Mark Herring, along with Attorney General Kwame Raoul of Illinois and Attorney General Aaron Ford of Nevada, filed their Opening brief in the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to force recognition of ratification of the ERA. You can find their [press release HERE](#) and the [brief HERE](#).

Our Advocates for Women's Rights brief will be submitted on January 10th.

Our statement can be found below.

In solidarity,

Carol Jenkins

CEO & President

ERA Coalition/Fund for Women's Equality

**ERA Coalition Applauds State Attorneys General Opening Brief in Case to Force Recognition of Equal Rights
Amendment**

*Nevada, Illinois, Virginia State Attorneys General File Opening Brief in Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in Case to Force
Archivist to Publish ERA*

Washington, DC — Today, the Attorneys General of the last three states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment — Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia — filed an opening brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in their case to force U.S. Archivist David S. Ferriero to publish the ERA to the U.S. Constitution after the Court previously dismissed the case for supposed lack of jurisdiction. The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress in 1972, and Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the amendment in 2020, thus fulfilling all constitutional requirements set forth in Article V.

"We are grateful to the Attorneys General for driving this litigation forward. The ERA has met all the constitutional requirements for an amendment, and the Archivist has a duty to publish it, providing official notice to all 50 States that the ERA is now the 28th Amendment to the Constitution," **said ERA Coalition and Fund for Women's Equality President and CEO Carol Jenkins.** "There can be no time limit on equality."

"Allowing this decision to stand would do much more than allow an unelected executive branch official to disregard his statutory duty," **writes Attorneys General Aaron Ford of Nevada, Kwame Raoul of Illinois, and Mark Herring of Virginia in the opening brief.** "It would obstruct Plaintiff-States' sovereign prerogative to ratify amendments that bring our foundational document in line with our Nation's values. And it would tell the women of America that, after 234 years, they must wait even longer for equal treatment under the Constitution. The district court's decision should be reversed."

On January 6, 2020, the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC), under the previous administration, issued a deeply flawed [opinion](#) saying the Equal Rights Amendment can no longer be ratified because the arbitrary deadline set by Congress had passed. The deadline, which Congress placed in the preamble of its resolution rather than in the text of the amendment itself, is not part of the constitutional requirements set forth in Article V. The U.S. Archivist has not yet published the ERA, citing the OLC's opinion.

"We're proud to support the States' important lawsuit. This is the first time the Archivist has ever refused to comply with his statutory duty to publish an amendment that has met all constitutional requirements," **said ERA Coalition Legal Task Force Chair Linda Coberly.** "It's time to recognize the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution."

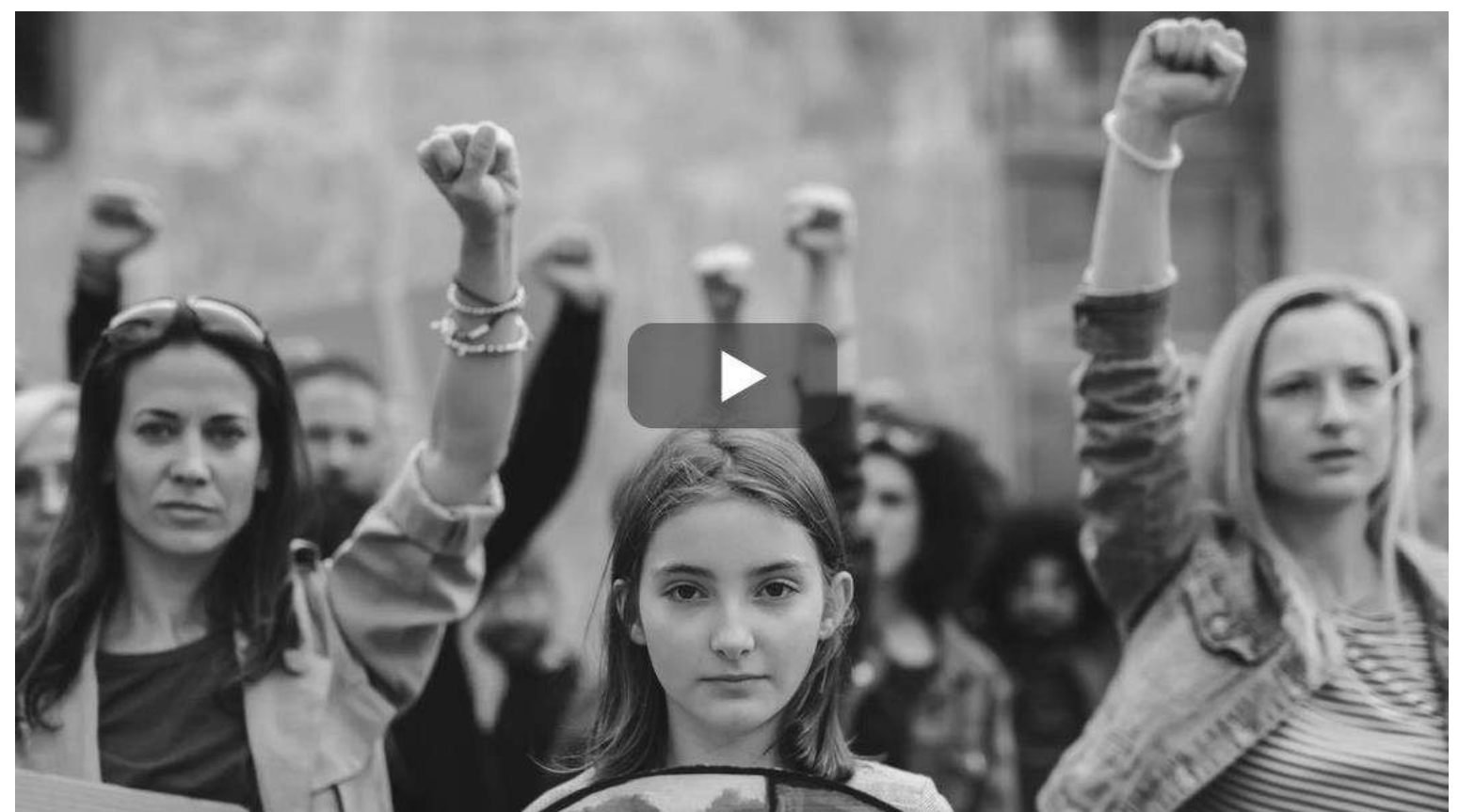
On January 10, 2022, coalition advocacy partners will file an amicus brief supporting the States' case.



2022 should be the year that the Equal Rights Amendment is added to the U.S. Constitution.

True equality can only be reached if we speak up, step up, and stand up right now!

[Click here to watch our exciting new video about what we can do together. Then RSVP to rally with us on January 27, the day when the ERA should be effective across the country.](#)



We'll be rallying in person in Washington, D.C. and have ways for you to participate virtually around the country. You won't want to miss this history-making day!

[Our movement for equality has been marching for 100 years to get to this moment in history. Join us in demanding the equality that we all should have been born into.](#)