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Letter: Equal rights for women should be guaranteed by Constitutional amendment

8 hrs ago



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It is almost a century since the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was first introduced in Congress in 1923.

It took almost half a century for Congress to pass it in 1972, and send it to the states for ratification. At the time, Phyllis Schlafly led a bogus, fear-based campaign against ratification, predicting terrible things would happen to women's rights as a result. History has proven her wrong.

Since that time, our society has come a long way in terms of advancing equal rights for women. However, all of these rights can be erased unless the ERA becomes part of our Constitution.

In a 2015 survey conducted by the ERA Coalition/Fund for Women's Equality, 94 percent of respondents said they would support a constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights for both men and women. Ironically, 80 percent believed that such an amendment was already part of the Constitution.

Thirty-seven of the 38 states needed to ratify the ERA have already done so. All eyes are now on the Virginia General Assembly in the 2019 session to become the 38th and last state to ratify the ERA. Let's hope they don't disappoint us yet again.

Neola Waller

Virginia Beach



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