

March 18, 2003

## **Eighty Years is Long Enough! 80 Years Since 1<sup>st</sup> Introduction of Equal Rights Amendment**

"It is not the fact of liberty but the way in which liberty is exercised that ultimately determines whether liberty itself survives." - Dorothy Thompson (1894-1961)

Dear Colleague:



In 1923, two Republican Congressmen introduced the Equal Rights Amendment into Congress. In 1972, Congress passed the ERA with a 7-year deadline that was later extended 3 more years. When the 10-year time limit lapsed in 1982, all but 3 of 38 states necessary for passage had agreed to make equal rights for all Americans a part of the Constitution.

Today, opponents claim that the ERA, also known as the Women's Equality Amendment, is passe. This advances an alarming idea that is simply too dangerous to accept...that equal rights for all Americans is a concept that can expire. As a nation, we encourage our children to recite "with liberty and justice for all" in the Pledge of Allegiance to help them learn to honor and respect the bedrock of American ideals - equality. How much longer can we tolerate the hypocritical notion that "liberty and justice for all" can be an anachronism?

The Equal Rights Amendment has already been reintroduced (H.J.Res.37) on March 12, 2003 with 187 original cosponsors, and more sponsors are joining us every week. If you would like to add your name to H.J. Res 37 or would like more information about the ERA, please contact Elizabeth Vogel, Legislative Fellow with Rep. Maloney at (202) 225-7944 or Sarah Morgan with Rep. Leach at (202) 225-6576.

Sincerely,

**CAROLYN B. MALONEY**  
Member of Congress

**JAMES A. LEACH**  
Member of Congress

The language of the Women's Equality Amendment: *"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. This Amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.*