

Supreme--Court--has--not--applied--the--same--strict--standard--in--sex
discrimination--cases--that--it--has--mandated--for--weighing--racial
discrimination;--and

WHEREAS,--Public--opinion--polls--show--that--71--percent--of--likely
voters--favored--a--constitutional--guarantee--of--equal--rights--for
women;--and

WHEREAS,--Over--500--organizations--representing--more--than--50
million--Americans--have--endorsed--the--ERA;--and

WHEREAS,--Title--VII--of--the--Civil--Rights--Act,--Title--IX--of--the
education--amendments,--and--the--Equal--Pay--Act--are--laws--most--cited
as--providing--equal--opportunities--for--women,--but--experience--has
shown--that--in--the--past--21--years--these--statutes--have--not--provided
adequate--enforcement--and--have--not--resulted--in--desired--changes--in
the--patterns--and--practice--of--discrimination;--and

Whereas,--The--Equal--Pay--Act--passed--by--the--88th--Congress
became--effective--June--11,--1964--and,--since--that--time,--women--have
not--gained--ground--in--the--battle--for--equal--pay;--and

WHEREAS,--On--March--7,--1982,--the--U. S. --Labor--Department
released--a--report--on--the--weekly--earnings--of--men--and--women--that
revealed--that--women--are--earning--substantially--less--than--men
within--the--same--occupations;--and

WHEREAS,--Equal--rights--for--women--have--been--embodied--in--the
Constitution--of--the--State--of--Maryland--since--1972,--the--Maryland
General--Assembly--having--passed--an--Amendment--to--the--Declaration--of
Rights--which--was--ratified--by--the--voters--of--Maryland;--and

WHEREAS,--The--fears--of--some--that--passage--of--the--ERA--would
result--in--the--courts--being--besieged--with--challenges--of--sexually
discriminatory--statutes--have--not--been--confirmed--in--Maryland--nor
in--other--states--that--have--enacted--their--own--equal--rights
amendments;--and

WHEREAS,--Significant--gains--have--been--made--in--removing--sex
discrimination--from--the--laws--of--Maryland--over--the--past--10--years,
and

WHEREAS,--These--gains--and--further--reforms--must--be--made--on--a
national--level;--and

WHEREAS,--On--June--30,--1982,--when--the--deadline--for--the--passage
of--the--original--federal--ERA--passed,--there--were--only--3--states
short--of--the--38--needed--to--make--the--ERA--the--27th--Amendment--to--the
U. S. --Constitution;--and

WHEREAS,--There--can--be--no--time--limit--placed--on--the--pursuit--of
equality--and--justice,--now;--therefore,--be--it

WHEREAS, The United States Congress now has before it, as
Senate Joint Resolution No. 10 and House Joint Resolution No. 1,