

**Resolution in Support of Ratification by Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment
To the United States Constitution**

- WHEREAS,** equality under the law is a fundamental value of Americans and the people of Nelson County; and
- WHEREAS,** legislation and court decisions have increased women’s access to education, employment, and public service; and
- WHEREAS,** that same legislation can be repealed and the Supreme Court may strike legislation or retreat from its own precedent, thereby eliminating or abridging legal rights currently enjoyed by women, girls, and their families; and
- WHEREAS,** Americans value the continued participation of women in education, the military, public service, and other spheres of our society; and
- WHEREAS,** inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution would require courts to apply the same strict level of scrutiny it applies to test the constitutionality of government action based on race, religion, or national origin; and
- WHEREAS,** an overwhelming majority of Americans reported in a 2015 poll that they support an amendment to the United States Constitution to guarantee equal rights for both men and women; and
- WHEREAS,** the Equal Rights Amendment was passed in 1972 by Congress, and
- WHEREAS,** the American Bar Association reaffirmed its support for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in 2016; and
- WHEREAS,** the total number of states that have ratified the amendment is 37, just one shy of the 38 needed to satisfy the Constitutional requirement that an amendment be ratified by three-fourths of the states to become valid; and
- WHEREAS,** the Equal Rights Amendment states:
- Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.
- Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Nelson County Board of Supervisors, support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the Nelson County Board of Supervisors, urge the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972, during the 2019 legislative session.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2018.

[insert here the name of authorized signatory]
[insert here his or her title]
[insert here the name of the voting body]