

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT HURTS WOMEN AND CHILDREN — BORN AND UNBORN



ACT NOW

The 2019 Virginia General Assembly session starts January 9th. There has been an increased push to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the U.S. Constitution this session.

The ERA at first glance appears to be a neutral measure advocating for the equality of women which is a worthy endeavor; however, the ambiguity of the language disguises significant negative consequences and legal uncertainty particularly when it comes to protecting the unborn. Legal protections for women are already found in both federal and state laws, including the Virginia Equal Pay Act.

Leading pro-abortion groups have used the ERA found in other state Constitutions as a tool to challenge laws that treat abortion differently from other "medical procedures," including laws restricting tax-payer funding of abortions and laws requiring parental consent.

Please act now to voice your opposition to Virginia's ratification of the ERA as drafted. Your witness is vital to educating your neighbors and legislators about the dangers behind the ERA!

**To make your voice heard visit:
www.vacatholic.org/action-center/**



CONCERNS WITH ERA:

MOOT

The ERA's ratification deadline passed over 30 years ago, rendering it legally moot. When the negative impacts of the ERA became clear, 5 states rescinded their ratifications.

ABORTION IMPLICATIONS

In New Mexico, the ERA arguments of NARAL and Planned Parenthood succeeded. The New Mexico Supreme Court unanimously ruled, on the basis of its state ERA, that denial of taxpayer funding for abortions is "sex discrimination" thereby requiring taxpayer funded abortions.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Legal challenges and uncertainty would arise over the lawfulness of programs and facilities that serve and assist women exclusively.

BETTER WAYS TO PROTECT WOMEN

Well drafted unambiguous legislation seeking to correct specific problems facing women would be more effective and create significantly less confusion.

There is an article on the Arlington Catholic Herald website that delves more into this topic. Please see the link below and a link will be provided on the SJB Facebook page, as well as the parish website.

https://www.catholicherald.com/Opinions/Columnists/Equal_Rights_confusion/

Equal Rights Amendment	Legislation has been filed seeking to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment proposed by Congress in 1972 (notwithstanding that the ratification period expired and not enough states ratified prior to the 1982 deadline). On its face, the ERA appears to be a neutral measure advocating for the equality of sexes; however, the ambiguity of the language disguises significant negative consequences. The ERA is cause for concern because “on the basis of sex” language has been construed to (1) require taxpayer-funded abortions, (2) forbid refusal to cover contraceptives, and (3) forbid differential treatment based on
Health Plan Mandates— Abortions, Contraceptive, Sterilizations, etc.	Bills will be filed seeking to impose health-plan mandates undermining religious liberty and freedom of conscience. Efforts will be taken to require Virginia health benefit plans to cover a broad array of “reproductive health services” to include but not limited to: abortions, any FDA approved contraceptive which includes abortifacients,
Physician-assisted Suicide	Legislation has been filed to legalize physician-assisted suicide in Virginia, or what proponents are calling “Medical Aid in Dying.” This would turn healers into killers and breaks trust in our doctors. Their
Efforts to Eliminate Pro-women and Unborn Protections— Ultrasound/Informed Consent/ Clinic Regulations	Legislative efforts will be taken to repeal health and safety standards for abortions, including the ultrasound/informed consent requirements, waiting periods, having multiple physicians certify the need for third-trimester abortions, as well as the abortion facility health and safety standards. Legislation has been filed that provides for a fundamental right to abortion in Virginia.
Death Penalty— Exemption for Severe Mental Illness	Legislation to restrict the application of the death penalty in Virginia will be filed: A defendant in a capital case who had a severe mental illness at the time of the offense would be ineligible for the death penalty.
Parental Rights— Requiring Family Life Education Opt-in	Important legislation providing parents more rights by requiring written consent for their child to participate in any family life education program in public school will be filed. Currently parents are only given