



Contact Senator Durbin Today!

Illinois Activists, we need your help!

Background

At the end of January, two identical resolutions were introduced in Congress, [H.J.Res.25](#) and [S.J.Res.4](#), to affirm the validity of the Equal Rights Amendment (“ERA”) as the 28th Amendment.

Specifically, the resolutions provide:

Notwithstanding any time limit contained in House Joint Resolution 208, 92d Congress, as agreed to in the Senate on March 22, 1972, the article of amendment proposed to the States in that joint resolution is valid to all intents and purposes as part of the United States Constitution having been ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

The resolutions are intended to urge immediate publication of the ERA as the 28th Amendment, which has been blocked by the Trump and Biden Administrations. The resolutions affirm the validity of the ERA, thereby addressing any doubt cast by opponents of equality for all and reproductive rights, who argue that the ERA is invalid due to the arbitrary deadline contained in the preamble to the proposed Amendment.

Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on the ERA

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the ERA the next few weeks, even though no hearing is required and the Committee will not vote on the resolutions. We have been informed that the hearing will focus only on the procedural issues and will not discuss publication of the ERA. What does that mean? They intend to focus only on the arbitrary deadline and not the benefits of the ERA.

This hearing, as planned, could have a devastating impact on the ERA.

It will send the message that the ERA is dead and must start anew. In the past few weeks, there have been four anti-equality articles saying as much. A hearing focused on the deadline ensures three things.

First, the media will only report on the deadline, and, because these resolutions are not going to pass, the public will be led to believe the ERA is dead. That means activists won’t be engaged to fight for it; the public won’t share messaging about it; and voters won’t think about it when they cast their ballots.

Second, it will give President Biden cover for continuing to block and fight in court against the ERA, making it a near certainty that he will not publish as required by law.



Third, it will send a message to the courts that the ERA is invalid unless the deadline is removed.

If the Biden Administration could be swayed to publish the ERA as required by law, the naysayers would then have to argue *WHY* they don't want to have constitutional equality for millions of American women, girls and LGBTQIA+ persons and *WHY* the already ratified and published ERA is not the legitimate 28th Amendment.

It shifts the burden of proof.

So we must act fast to make sure the hearing is conducted properly and the message is on point!

And we need your help! As the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Durbin controls the hearing, witnesses, etc. He needs to understand that the ERA cannot be undermined.

Here is how you can help get the ERA over the finish line, guaranteeing equality for all and protecting reproductive rights:

- Email Senator Durbin
- Post the letter you send on Senator Durbin's social media; and
- Share this with others and ask them to help.

EMAIL/CALL SENATOR DURBIN – please email Senator Durbin through his counsel at the addresses below. A sample letter may be found here in [PDF](#) and [Word](#). You may use the letter or tailor it as you see fit. The key is to express the need for the Senators to make it abundantly clear that (1) the ERA is the 28th Amendment and should be published, and (2) S.J.Res. 4 is designed to urge publication and remove any doubt cast upon the ERA's validity by the opponents of equality and reproductive rights.

Follow up with a call to each the Senator's counsel stating "Has the Senator read my letter, emailed to Stephanie Trifone and Chastidy Burns, regarding the Equal Rights Amendment?" If you do not get confirmation, email it again and call the next day. When you get confirmation, please let us know immediately at nvbates@shatteringglass.org.

SENATOR DURBIN'S SOCIAL MEDIA

Copy the text of the letter and place it on Senator Durbin's Facebook page in the comments under his posts. You can tweet an abbreviated message as well.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Senate Judiciary Committee

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