



## 2017 Year End Report

### Women's March on Washington

On January 21, 2017, a delegation of ERA Coalition leaders, volunteers and supporters joined the millions of women and men worldwide who participated in the Women's March on Washington, co-Chaired by ERA Coalition Board Member Gloria Steinem. The ERA Coalition was a member of the convening table and successfully advocated for the inclusion of language in support of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the Women's March Unity Principles.

Among the massive crowds, a group of our marchers was able to organize and represent the ERA Coalition with our signs and a banner. In preparation for the march, we created over 75 signs, 10,000 stickers and hundreds of actions cards to distribute at the march. Suzanne Lerner, president of Michael Stars, donated t-shirts for our delegation and supporters to wear the day of the event. Media interviews of our board and staff included BBC, CNN, PBS and RYOT.



(l to r) Jessica Neuwirth, Marcy Syms, Brenda Wilkin at the Women's March on Washington.



ERA Coalition at the Women's March on Washington.



(l to r) Carol Jenkins, Patricia Arquette at the Women's March on Washington.

### Congressional Update

Momentum for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) continues to grow within the halls of Congress. Empowered by the #MeToo movement, the ERA Coalition has been working with the lead sponsors of the introduced legislation to develop strategies to increase co-sponsorship and push for movement on the House and Senate Floor.

As of December 8, 2017, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's bill, HJ Res 53, the 1972 ERA language with an additional sentence adding the word "women" to the Constitution, has 108 cosponsors and bipartisan support. Senator Menendez's bill, SJ Res 6, with the traditional ERA language, has 14 cosponsors. Senator Cardin's bill SJ Res 5, the "3-State Strategy," has 34 cosponsors and Representative Speier's House companion bill, HJ Res 53, has 163 cosponsors.

## **New Expanded Equal Rights Amendment**

We previously reported that a group of legal scholars convened in November and December 2016 to consider the possibility of expanding the Equal Rights Amendment language to include race as well as sex equality. The proposed language explicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of "sex (including pregnancy, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity), and/or race (including ethnicity, national origin, or color), and/or like grounds of subordination (such as disability or faith)." The language, which we anticipate will be introduced in Congress in early 2018, will be named the Amendment for Constitutional Equality (ACE) and supported by the new Congressional Caucus for Black Women and Girls.

The introduction of the ACE amendment is being supported by the pro bono work of the global marketing agency BBDO and PR firm InkHouse. The ERA Coalition is working with their creative teams to capture the historic nature of this event and launch a coordinated campaign to gain support both within and outside Congress.

The ERA Coalition's board, staff and consultants have conducted concerted outreach to allies in the broader social justice movement to increase the network of supporters of the expanded language. To date, 24 organizations have signed on to endorse the draft legislation, including the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Council, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the Black Women's Roundtable, Communications Workers of America (CWA), GLAAD, NAACP and the National Bar Association.

## **Nevada Votes to Ratify the ERA**

On March 22, 2017, exactly 45 years after the ERA's passage through Congress, Nevada became the 36<sup>th</sup> state to vote to ratify the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment legislation. The bill, which was championed by Senator Pat Spearman, passed with overwhelming and bipartisan support. The Nevada State Legislature has one of the highest percentages of women in the country, 40%, and had a shift in party control from the 2016 election cycle.

In June 2017, Senator Pat Spearman attended meetings organized by the ERA Coalition in New York City and Washington, DC. In NYC, Senator Spearman was featured at a media briefing with Gloria Steinem and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. In Washington, DC, she met the ERA's legislative champions, including Congresswoman Speier, Congresswoman Maloney and

Congresswoman Jayapal, and with the office of Senator Cardin. Senator Spearman attended the June ERA Coalition Lead Organization meeting, bringing a powerful message and strategic advice.



NV State Senator Pat Spearman speaks at the Nevada State Legislature.



NV State Senator Pat Spearman and Gloria Steinem are featured at a media briefing on the status of the Equal Rights Amendment in New York City.

## **Represent.com T-Shirt Campaign**

The ERA Coalition’s “Equal Rights Now” t-shirt campaign on Represent.com, which featured an iconic image of Gloria Steinem and Dorothy Pittman Hughes, was successful as both a fundraiser and awareness-raiser. Dozens of celebrity supporters, including America Ferrera, Josh Gad, Audrey McDonald, Amy Schumer, Lena Dunham, Gillian Anderson, and Robin Wright promoted the campaign by posting their photos on social media.

The campaign was featured in *Teen Vogue*, *Daily Mail*, *Hollywood Reporter* and *HelloGiggles*. Although the campaign has officially ended, the t-shirt, which has sold over 3,700, can still be purchased at [www.represent.com/equalrights](http://www.represent.com/equalrights).



## **Coalition Update**

Our coalition continues to grow as we gain the support of both organizations and individuals. We currently have 26 lead organizations, adding the African American Policy Forum (AAPF), Deeds Not Words, ERA-Minnesota, GLAAD and Union Theological Seminary since the beginning of 2017. Lauren Embrey, Antuan Johnson, Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, Kimberly Peeler-Allen and

Diana Revson have joined our board, and Wendy Davis, Tiffany Dufu, Glennda Testone, and Mel Wymore have joined our Advisory Council.

Our state alliances, ERANow: Delaware and ERA-NC Alliance, are organizing on the local level and have introduced legislation in their state legislatures. We have also been working with a group of activists in Tampa who recently formed ERA Florida and are preparing to work on events in support of the new ERA language.



## **Vision for 2018**

The ERA Coalition will continue in 2018 to focus on growing a strong national, inclusive and multi-generational movement to advance its mission to pass and ratify an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to guarantee full constitutional equality. We hope to further expand our networks to include allies from like-minded social and civil rights movements. We also hope to increase the number of state affiliates to strengthen our grassroots presence across the country.

The ERA Coalition is committed to serving as an umbrella organization, supporting all efforts to increase constitutional equality in the United States. We will continue to provide our lead and member organizations with regular updates on the status of pending and proposed legislation and convene meetings to strategize and share information.

The ERA Coalition Board and staff will continue to work and meet with Congressional offices on Capitol Hill to increase co-sponsorship for ERA legislation and to develop a broad bipartisan base for the ERA. We will also be working to secure support for the proposed Amendment for Constitutional Equality (ACE) and will educate members of Congress and their offices on the need for constitutional equality for all Americans.

Working with the pro bono support of BBDO and InkHouse, the ERA Coalition will launch targeted campaigns to encourage civic participation by the public to lobby Congress to take action on the ERA and ACE. Using both traditional and social media strategies, we will focus on bringing the need for greater constitutional protections to the national public consciousness and on turning the growing outrage over the treatment of women into effective advocacy for constitutional reform.

The financial and pro bono contributions of our donors are vital to the work of the ERA Coalition– thanks to all of our supporters. In particular, we would like to acknowledge and thank:

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Suzanne Lerner  
Jane Levikow

Edie Lycke  
Georgette Mallory  
Michael Neuwirth

## Our Leadership

### Board of Directors

Jessica Neuwirth, *President*  
Marcy Syms, *Chair*  
Liz Young, *Treasurer*  
Carol Jenkins, *Secretary*

Lauren Embrey  
Antuan Johnson  
Rev. Dr. Serene Jones  
Kimberly Peeler-Allen

Diana Revson  
Gloria Steinem  
Maria Vullo  
Teresa Younger

### Advisory Council

Melanie Campbell	Wendy Davis	Donna Deitch	Lindy Dekoven
Abigail Disney	Tiffany Dufu	Minna Elias	Gloria Feldt
Jane Fonda	Agnes Gund	Sarah Jones	Christine Lahti
Suzanne Lerner	Jane Levikow	Judy Lotas	Catharine MacKinnon
Laura Neuwirth	Marla Schaefer	Taylor Schilling	Glenda Testone
Linda Kaplan Thaler	Jamia Wilson	Marie Wilson	Mel Wymore

### Lead Organizations in the ERA Coalition



### Operational Team

Jessica Neuwirth  
Director

Carol Jenkins  
Consultant

Tanya Clay House  
Consultant

Bettina Hager  
COO & DC Director

Ron Baldwin  
Consultant

Jennifer Tucker  
Consultant