February 4, 2021

President Joseph R Biden Jr. and Vice President Kamala Harris
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

We send our congratulations on your victory, and look forward to an Administration with many successes.

We write to you as the ERA Coalition, a woman of color-led organization, representing millions of people, more than 200 organizations, leaders across the country, and allied organizations. Our shared goal is to see the Equal Rights Amendment as part of the U.S. Constitution.

We applaud your Biden-Harris Agenda commitment to ensure gender equality in our Constitution. Toward that goal, we ask that you make the Equal Rights Amendment a priority in your first 100 days.

We are counting on you to use the power of the Presidency and Vice-Presidency to ensure that the Archivist publishes the Equal Rights Amendment, with his certificate, as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

With Virginia’s becoming the 38th state to ratify the ERA on January 27, 2020, all requirements for it to become the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution have been satisfied. The ERA has yet to be published by the Archivist, however, following the opinion issued in a memo from the Trump Administration’s Department of Justice, Office of Legal Counsel.

We ask you to work with Congress to pass historic resolutions to remove the arbitrary time limit from the preamble and recognize that the Equal Rights Amendment has been ratified by three-fourths of the states and is now the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Last year, the House passed a joint resolution to remove the ratification time limit to clear any barriers to the ERA’s adoption. Joint resolutions have been introduced in both the Senate (SJ Res 1) and House (HJ Res 17) in the 117th Congress. We ask that you take action and advocate for the ERA in Congress, making it clear that discrimination on the basis of sex is unconstitutional.

We value your leadership on the ERA throughout your careers. It has been nearly 100 years since this struggle began to enshrine, into the Constitution, that equality of rights cannot be denied or abridged on account of sex. We are proud and honored to work with you to realize that the dream of equality is finally secured in the U.S. Constitution. Together we will create a more equal future, lifting up gender equity and all women, especially women of color, Black, Indigenous, transgender, non-binary people, and people with disabilities, those most vulnerable to systemic racism and sexism.

Most Respectfully,

Carol Jenkins
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State and Local Organization Signers
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American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) 704
Arizona NOW
The Athena Society
Brooklyn Queens National Organization for Women
Broward for Progress
Business and Professional Women (BPW) of Maryland
California Women’s Law Center
Charlottesville (VA) NOW
Charleston Women March Onward
Columbia (SC) NOW
Delaware ERA Now
Downtown Women for Change
Durham NOW
Empire State Indivisible
Equal Means ERA- South Carolina
Equality Utah
ERA Georgia
ERA Illinois
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ERA-NC Alliance
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Florida NOW
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