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April 26, 2017

Hon. Bob Goodlatte
Chair
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
2035 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Nadler:

I write to respectfully request that the Committee on the Judiciary hold a hearing on H.J. Res. 33, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States guaranteeing equal rights for men and women. As you know, this amendment, commonly known as the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), would constitutionally protect American women against discrimination on the basis of gender. Especially in light of the disturbing revelations of widespread incidents of sexual harassment and assault in both the private and public sectors, it is imperative that Congress seriously pursue actions to protect all employees from sexual predators and properly address claims of sexual misconduct. I firmly believe that passing the ERA is an essential component to changing a culture that has tolerated sexual harassment for decades.

During my career in Congress, I have introduced the Equal Rights Amendment 11 times, and it has consistently earned the support of Democrats and Republicans alike. H.J. Res. 33 currently has 145 bipartisan cosponsors. There has not been a Committee hearing in either the House or Senate on the ERA since 1984, but the ERA is as relevant today as it has ever been. Life for women in America has changed in many ways since the last time Congress seriously debated the ERA, and the issue of Constitutional equality for women is well worth renewed consideration.

In recent years, we have been reminded of the consequences that stem from the lack of constitutional protection for women. Gender discrimination pervades all areas of a woman's life. By holding a hearing on the Equal Rights Amendment, Congress can renew the momentum necessary to protect women's rights with the full force of the Constitution. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress