

Mrs. Dorothy L. Ashmore  
Birney Star Route, Box 79  
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

January 27, 1973

Senator Clifford P. Hansen  
344 Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D. C. 20510

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Dear Senator Hansen:

This is indeed a very tragic week for the women of Wyoming! In spite of all of our efforts to defeat the ERA, in spite of the fact that the majority did not want it, our elected officials turned a deaf ear to us and passed it. Even though they were flooded with letters of protest and thousands of signatures on petitions. I have always been of the opinion that the people we elect to represent us, are supposed to speak for us. Can I be so wrong in this belief? At least we have, in Sheridan County, four men who are obviously listening to the majority, and have fought very hard for us, namely our Dr. Pete Madsen. Would that we could have more men like Dr. Pete in Cheyenne. The Women of Sheridan are going to see to it that the one House member who voted for the ERA, does not return to office. It is disheartening to work so hard during election year to try to get the very best to represent us, only to find out that there was a bad apple in that box, who told me himself that he voted for it even though he really didn't know too much about it! I cannot buy that, especially when he is a lawyer, and also when, as an elected official, I feel that he should be well informed beforehand, on any matter to be voted on. And he was very well informed, thanks to Mrs. Joanne Holbrook, of Casper, who saw to it personally, that every member of the House and Senate was supplied with printed material, revealing the facts behind the ERA. I spent many hours at this typewriter, a great deal of money getting it on radio and in the Press, plus postage, in getting every bit of information I could find, down to Cheyenne... Only to find that, in the end, my civil rights have been denied me.

Senator, is there any way, now, that we can fight to get this amendment rescinded? On the TV news last night from KULR in Billings, it was reported that the legislature in Montana is seeking an opinion from their State Attorney General on the possibilities of a referendum, thereby giving the women of Montana the opportunity to voice their opinion on this vital issue. It is too late for Wyoming women, I realize. But at least there must be some other way we can fight to be heard. If only our Wyoming legislators had the intelligence to have sought a referendum. There was a conspiracy abroad, I know, to keep this issue as quiet as possible, and get it passed before the women of our state had sufficient time to become well informed on the consequences of the ERA, should it become law. There was no publicity here in Sheridan at all, until I happened to be in Casper with Jim, who was attending a Board of Directors meeting of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, and I picked up a copy of the Casper Star Tribune and read an article giving your statements on the ERA to the BPW convention. Our newspapers have every right to be criticized as they were a few years ago by Vice-President Agnew. The leftist radicals get all the coverage, and they have a way of keeping the wraps on any issue that might reveal their plans to undermine and eventually ruin our form of government.

I immediately wrote to you, and as you were in Wyoming at the time, Patti Howie answered and sent to me the excerpts from the Yale Law Journal, which were a tremendous help to me in getting information to the women of Sheridan County. So please give her my very deep thanks, for being so alert and so extremely helpful.

The President of the Republican Women's Club has asked me to speak to them on February 12, on the ERA. Even tho it has been passed in Wyoming, as I said before, we are not giving up until all avenues of help have been travelled. So my request to you Senator is this, do you have any further information on this, as to what we might do to fight this amendment being ratified, or anything I might be able to give the women as a ray of hope. I certainly would appreciate anything you have that we might use or do to get our voices heard.

Sincerely,

*Dorothy Ashmore*

**COPY**

January 31, 1973

Mrs. Jim Ashmore  
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Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

Dear Dorothy:

Your letter was appreciated. As you know, in order for a Constitutional Amendment approved by Congress to be ratified, it must be approved also by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states.

At this point, 23 states including Wyoming have approved the amendment, and the consent of 15 more is needed for the Equal Rights Amendment to become a part of the Constitution.

The fate of this amendment is in the hands of those states which haven't yet acted on the measure. The only strategy I could suggest at this time would be to help insure that people in these remaining states are aware of the positions taken by opponents of the amendment.

Kind personal regards to you and Jim,

Sincerely yours,

Clifford P. Hansen  
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