

Sheryl Ann Firth  
1422 Palisades Way  
Rock Springs, Wyo. 82901

Firth

REC'D APR 1 1974

March 26, 1974

The Honorable Clifford Hansen  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hansen:

Our government class at Rock Springs High School is discussing the main issues which are being considered in the Congress today. One of these issues which I am most interested in is the amendment on womens' equal rights.

I would appreciate it if you would send me some available information on womens' equal rights. I would also like to hear your position on this issue.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Sheryl Ann Firth

Sheryl Ann Firth

**COPY**

April 2, 1974

Sheryl Ann Firth  
1422 Palisades Way  
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Dear Miss Firth:

Thank you for your letter. I am enclosing an outline which lists some of the legal actions that might result if the Equal Rights Amendment were ratified. Since the enclosed document is intended to show arguments against ratification of the amendment, I have asked the National Organization for Women to send to you material which lists reasons for ratification of the amendment, so that you will be able to assess arguments on both sides.

When the amendment was before the Senate, I voted against it. It passed nevertheless. I very much favor equal treatment and rights for women; but I do not feel the amendment approved by the Senate is a good approach. The amendment, if ratified, would immediately force some very radical changes in our laws which would affect our very social fabric. I don't believe such an approach is necessary.

In my opinion, there are already sufficient safeguards in the U.S. Constitution to pave the way for equality for women. The Courts have issued a number of significant rulings in recent months with regard to equality of pay and opportunity, and progress is being made toward insuring the goal of equality. A recent example was Senate passage of a bill I co-sponsored to prohibit discrimination as to sex in the granting of credit by financial institutions and credit organizations. I believe equality can be achieved without forcing some of the changes that are mentioned in the enclosed outline.

The amendment has been approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives. To become a part of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states. To date, 33 states have ratified the amendment. Five more must take similar action before the amendment can become a part of the Constitution. Wyoming has ratified the amendment.

Sincerely yours,

Clifford P. Hansen  
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CPH:ph  
enc.