

CHEYENNE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB



FEB 8 - 1954

February Sixth, 1954

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

Hon. Lester C. Hunt
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Hunt:

As you of course know, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. has long been interested in, and has given active support to the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Being chairman of the Legislative Committee of the local Club, I have kept tract of articles appearing for and against it in the press and have noticed your expression of belief in its provisions. We are indeed grateful for your support. But we, not only locally but nationally, are deeply concerned over the Hayden Rider to this much sought for Constitutional Amendment, for it appears to delete the most effective clause, contained in the proposed amendment.

The Amendment now reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress and the several states shall have power, within their respective jurisdictions, to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The Hayden Rider states: "The provisions of this article shall not be construed to impair any rights, benefits or exemptions now or hereafter conferred by law upon persons of the female sex."
The Federation objections are:

1. The Amendment gives equal rights to men and women as citizens. The Hayden Rider applies to statutory laws of the various legislatures. The two cannot be combined.

We do not wish to burden you with a large amount of information for you are well aware of the arguments for and against the proposed amendment which has been before the Congress for so many years, and which was voted on last summer by the Senate with the addition of the Hayden Rider and passed by a vote of 65 to 11. St. George Bill HJR 74, original wording before House Judiciary Committee. A letter from the Second Vice President of our National Federation to Mrs. St. George, published in the Congressional Record for July 31, 1953, provides accurate information as to the stand of the Federation and we ask your consideration and study of this letter. Should you wish supporting data concerning our desire for the passage of the amendment without the Hayden Rider I shall be more than glad to provide the same.

Thanking you for any assistance you may be able to give us, and with kindest personal regards to you and Mrs. Hunt, I am
Cordially yours,

Julia Bartlett Freeborn
801 East 17th

Freeborn, Julia

COPY

February 10, 1954

Dear Mrs. Freeborn:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of February 6 with reference to the Equal Rights Amendment.

As stated in your letter, the amendment is now pending before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives. Senate Joint Resolution 49 was passed by the Senate on July 16 after the Hayden Rider had been overwhelmingly adopted. In fact, the amendment was also passed in 1949 after the Hayden Rider had been adopted by a very large vote, so I can see no possibility of the Rider being defeated, at least not in the near future.

Should the House of Representatives pass the resolution in its original form, the resolution would go to a conference committee of the House and Senate to iron out the differences in the resolution. Since the conferees would be members of the Judiciary Committees, I would not be included. Whatever report was made by the conferees, however, would have to be accepted or rejected by the full membership of both the Senate and the House but the report cannot be amended.

For your information I am enclosing a resolution which I have introduced at the request of many of our Wyoming women. It is felt this amendment would meet the objections of the proponents of the Hayden Rider and would have much better chance of success than the present proposed amendment.

Thank you for writing and with every good wish, believe me, I am

Sincerely yours, SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

LESTER C. HUNT
United States Senator

Mrs. Julia Bartlett Freeborn
801 East 17th
Cheyenne, Wyoming

SEN. L. C. HUNT
ACC. NO. 270

83d CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. J. RES. 113

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 11 (legislative day, JANUARY 7), 1954

Mr. HUNT introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, to assure the equal application thereof to individuals of both sexes.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of*
2 *the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-*
3 *thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following*
4 article is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Consti-
5 tution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents
6 and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the
7 legislatures of three-fourths of the several States:

8 "ARTICLE —

9 "SECTION 1. Whenever in this Constitution the term
10 'person, persons, people', and any personal pronoun is used
11 the same shall be taken to include both sexes.

SEN. F. O. HUNT
ACQ. NO. 270
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1 "SEC. 2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall
2 have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by
3 the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within
4 seven years from the date of its submission."

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

January 11 (legislative day, January 7), 1954
Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

85th CONGRESS
2d Session

S. J. RES. 113

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, to assure the equal application thereof to individuals of both sexes.

By Mr. HUNT

JANUARY 11 (legislative day, January 7), 1954

Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

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