

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS

AMERICAN BAR CENTER — 1155 EAST SIXTIETH STREET — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

January 18, 1973



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The Honorable Thomas F. Stroock
State Senate Chambers
Capitol Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Dear Mr. Stroock:

As you know, the Equal Rights Amendment has been passed by the House of Representatives of the State of Wyoming and will soon be under consideration in the Wyoming Senate.

As President of the National Association of Women Lawyers and a life-long Wyomingite, I urge you to vote yes for the Equal Rights Amendment. It has already been ratified by 22 States.

The Equality State has led the nation in granting equal rights for women. On December 10, 1869, Wyoming was the first state to grant women the right to vote and hold public office and in 1890, Wyoming became the first state to provide for full State rights for women. Nine other states now have State Equal Rights -- Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Washington. These ten states will be the only states in the country which provide legal equality for women unless the ERA is ratified by the requisite 38 states.

As a native of Wyoming, I have always been proud of the leading role Wyoming has played in the area of equality for all persons. Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment would give every man and woman in the entire United States (not just the ten states mentioned above) equal legal status.

Ratification of the ERA would give married women in all states the right to enter into contracts, to run a business enterprise, to manage property, to become guarantors and to be treated equally as administrators.

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Ratification of the ERA would not affect the power of Congress to draft women, which it already has authority to do. The U. S. Constitution gives to Congress the power "To raise and support armies . . . To provide and maintain a navy." There were no restrictions or limitations on this power and the Supreme Court has held that it will not even review the manner in which this power is exercised. Selective Draft Law Cases, 245 U.S. 360 (1918); Lichter v. U.S., 334 U.S. 742 (1948). Every person is subject to be called for military duty in the public safety. It is for Congress to say when, who and to what extent and how they shall be selected. warren v. U.S., 177 F. 2d. 596 (1949). The Equal Rights Amendment does not affect this power, but it would give women who serve in the military the right to receive benefits equal to those now being received by men.

Ratification of the ERA would not affect the privacy of women-sleeping quarters and bathroom facilities. Senate Report 92-689 came to this emphatic conclusion under two well established judicial principles, the power of the state to regulate cohabitation/sexual relations of unmarried persons and the constitutional right of privacy enunciated by the Supreme Court in 1965.

I urge you to extend to women throughout the entire nation the equality of rights now granted to the women of Wyoming with a yes vote for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Sincerely,



NettaBell Girard Larson, President
National Association of Women Lawyers