

Deedra Phillips
Box 112
Evanston, WY 82930

Ang

March 28, 1977

Senator Cliff Hansen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hansen:

I would appreciate it if you could write and let me know just what the Equal Rights Amendment consists of. I haven't read or heard too much about it and would like to know more if at all possible.

If there was a war and the draft went back into effect, would women be drafted and if so would they have to go to the front and fight and kill just like the men?

Also I was wondering if you support the amendment or not. If so could you please tell me why you do support it?

Sincerely yours,

Deedra Phillips

Deedra Phillips

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May 3, 1977

Deedra Phillips
Box 112
Evanston, Wyoming 82930

Dear Ms. Phillips:

Thank you for your letter about the Equal Rights Amendment. This amendment has not yet been added to the Constitution. Before 1979, 38 States must ratify the amendment. This goal has not yet been attained.

You asked specifically about the way women would be affected by the draft should ERA become effective. Under the ERA, women would most certainly be drafted, were the draft to be reinstated. At present, there is no draft, so for now the issue is moot. The League of Women Voters has figures which point out that in 1971 less than 5% of all eligible males were in fact in service in the military. Of that number less than 1% ever actually reached combat. Moreover, the League of Women Voters points out that family responsibilities have often exempted men from military service in the past, so women would certainly have this option available to them.

One of the benefits which could come to women through their participation in the military would be an end to the practice of requiring higher qualifications for women than men. Thus, more women would become eligible for the good on-the-job training programs the military provides, and they would also be eligible for veteran's benefits. At present, women must have graduated from high school to be considered eligible for the military. Men are not held to that same standard, but can participate in the military with less than a high school education.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Clifford P. Hansen
U S S

CPH:lgnw

*P.S. I voted against it when
it passed the Senate.*