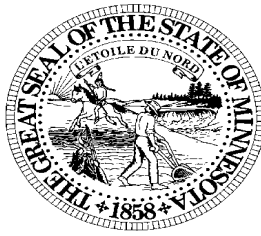


# Minnesota Senate



# Minnesota House of Representative

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
2256 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig  
1523 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ilhan Omar  
1730 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dean Phillips  
2452 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Hagedorn  
1433 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer  
315 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stauber  
126 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michelle Fischbach  
1237 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 205

March 15, 2021

## via electronic delivery

Dear Minnesota Congressional Delegation:

This week the U.S. House Speaker Pelosi has indicated her intention to bring up House Joint Resolution 17 on the floor for a vote. Today is U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg's birthday, and to honor this pioneer for women's equality, we are strongly urging you to support this House Joint Resolution to remove the time limit for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendments by the states.

Minnesota is a ratified state; the Equal Rights Amendment was ratified by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota on February 12, 1973. Yet in the year 2021, the United States Constitution still does not explicitly guarantee that all the rights it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex. It only specifically affirms that women and men are equal in their right to vote under the 19th Amendment.

To date, the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause has not been interpreted to guarantee equal rights on the basis of sex in the same way the Equal Rights Amendment would, as demonstrated by the fact that cases of sex discrimination receive only intermediate scrutiny. These cases deserve the highest level of strict judicial scrutiny, just as others are afforded to constitutionally protected classes such as religion, race, and country of origin.

Worldwide, 140 nations have constitutional gender equality. The principle of gender equality is contained in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all subsequent major international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which has been ratified by 187 other nations.

Congress has the power to change or remove the time limit. Note that Article V of the United States Constitution imposes no limit for ratification of amendments.

We therefore strongly urge you to support of House Joint Resolution 17. It's time to put women into the U.S. Constitution.

Signed,

Representative Patty Acomb  
Representative Kristin Bahner  
Representative Jamie Becker-Finn  
Representative Kaela Berg  
Representative Robert Bierman  
Representative Liz Boldon  
Representative Shelly Christensen  
Representative Jim Davnie  
Representative Rob Ecklund  
Representative Steven Elkins  
Representative Sandra Feist  
Representative Mike Freiberg  
Representative Aisha Gomez  
Representative Jess Hanson  
Representative Alice Hausman  
Representative Hodan Hassan  
Representative Athena Hollins  
Representative Frank Hornstein  
Representative John Huot  
Representative Sydney Jordan  
Representative Ginny Klevorn  
Representative Erin Koegel  
Representative Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn  
Representative Fue Lee  
Representative Tina Liebling  
Representative Todd Lippert  
Representative Jamie Long  
Representative Kelly Moller  
Representative Kelly Morrison  
Representative Mohamud Noor  
Representative Dave Pinto  
Representative Laurie Pryor  
Representative Ruth Richardson  
Representative Mike Sundin  
Representative John Thompson  
Representative Samantha Vang  
Representative Jay Xiong  
Senator Karla Bigham  
Senator Jim Carlson  
Senator Greg Clausen  
Senator Steve Cwodzinski  
Senator Scott Dibble  
Senator Kari Dziedzic  
Senator Chris Eaton  
Senator Omar Fateh  
Senator Melisa Franzen  
Senator Nick Frentz  
Senator FOUNG Hawj  
Senator John Hoffman

Senator Jason Isaacson  
Senator Ann Johnson Stewart  
Senator Susan Kent  
Senator Matt Klein  
Senator Mary Kunesch  
Senator John Marty  
Senator Jennifer A. McEwen  
Senator Erin Murphy  
Senator Jerry Newton  
Senator Sandy Pappas  
Senator Lindsey Port  
Senator Aric Putnam  
Senator Ann Rest  
Senator Patricia Torres Ray  
Senator Chuck Wiger  
Senator Melissa Wiklund