



Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform,

My name is Kristan Hawkins, and I'm the President of Students for Life of America and Students for Life Action. On behalf of our nearly 1,300 active groups and of the more than 127,000 student activists we've trained across the nation, I would like to express our strong opposition for the deceptively titled Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Before I was even born, the ERA failed to capture the support of the country – twice. The abortion lobby has spent the last few years trying to resurrect this century-old idea – one that has significant and far-reaching implications. However, the U.S. Department of Justice already determined that **the time limit for ERA ratification expired long ago, and reviving it is unlawful.**

If proponents of the ERA were being honest with Americans, they would call this the "Everything Related to Abortion act" because *their goal is not women's equality*. **The hidden agenda in the ERA is to inject taxpayer-funded abortion on demand in the Constitution.** This isn't mere speculation – state courts have determined that full funding of abortion is *required* of state-based ERA legislation. Furthermore, the chief lobbyist at [NARAL admitted in an email](#) that the ERA is "essential" because it would "require judges to strike down anti-abortion laws because they violate both the constitutional right to privacy and sexual equality."

Although laws in place at the time the ERA was first proposed did not adequately protect women's interests, this is no longer the case. In fact, **the ERA now presents legitimate harms to [many protections](#) specifically designed for women** because the ERA states sex cannot be considered when making a legal preference. Even Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg [admitted](#) the ERA would negatively impact more than 800 laws designed to promote and protect women's equality, education, and rights in the workplace. Laws that would be affected include the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, the Federal Minimum Wage Act of 1974, and the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978.

We are tired of the predatory abortion industry's nefarious attempts to manipulate women into believing they cannot be equal unless they kill their children. We know women are more than capable of achieving their personal, professional, and educational goals regardless of their pregnant or parenting status.

If you, our Representatives, really want to ensure equal rights for all people, you must recognize the humanity of the preborn and equip women to make life-affirming choices. **Equality for women would be better advanced when little girls are no longer killed in their mother's womb and mothers are given the resources and support they need to choose life.**

Let me be clear, the ERA is not a protection for women's equality, it's a *threat* to their rights and wellbeing. We must reject the abortion lobby's attempts to hijack the women's movement and invent a constitutional foothold for abortion to the detriment of what women truly want and need.

Thank you,

Kristan Hawkins