June 11, 2019

Chairman Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary  
2141 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler,

We the undersigned members of the ERA Coalition, the national organization representing more than 100 organizations, leaders across the country, allied organizations and millions of women and men, thank you for the hearing in the Judiciary Committee on April 30, 2019.

We are writing to encourage you to move forward with a mark-up and vote on HJ Res 38, the bill to remove the ratification deadline from the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) legislation, without delay. Legislation to ratify the ERA has been introduced in eleven of the thirteen non-ratified states this year. The passage of HJ Res 38 is an important step to ensuring that these efforts are not in vain, but will lead to real change.

Despite the significant legal and legislative advances that have been made in recent decades, women continue to face discrimination on the basis of sex. The symptoms of this systemic discrimination are clear in the ongoing fights against unequal pay, workplace harassment, pregnancy discrimination, domestic violence and limited access to comprehensive healthcare. It is not enough to treat the symptoms; we must address the root cause of inequality by amending the Constitution.

As you noted in the hearing, it is clear that “we are on the verge of a breakthrough for equality in this country.” Your leadership on advancing this legislation will enable the country to move equality forward both in the law and society. We know that we do not need to convince you of the merits of this legislation, and hope to work with you on ensuring it is a priority. One hundred years is far too long for women to wait.

Sincerely,

Jessica Neuwirth & Carol Jenkins  
Co-Presidents, ERA Coalition
Gloria Steinem
Writer and Activist

Patricia Arquette
Actress and Activist

Alyssa Milano
Actress and Activist

Senator Pat Spearman
Nevada Senate

Senator Jennifer McClellan
Virginia Senate

Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy
Virginia House of Delegates

Delegate Hala Ayala
Virginia House of Delegates
Lead Organizations of the ERA Coalition

Alice Paul Institute
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Delaware: ERANow
Downtown Women for Change
Equality Now
Equal Means Equal
Equal Means ERA (South Carolina)
Equal Rights Advocates
ERA Minnesota
ERA-NC Alliance
ERA Task Force Arizona
Feminist Majority
Gender Equality Law Center
GLAAD
Legal Momentum
National Equal Rights Amendment Alliance
NCBW (National Congress of Black Women)
National Organization for Women (NOW)
NWPC (National Woman’s Political Caucus)
Project 28 Missouri
Rethinking Eve
Union Theological Seminary

UniteWomen.org

VAratifyERA

VoteERA.org

We are Woman

Winston & Strawn, LLP

Women’s Media Center (WMC)

Allied Organizations

The Athena Society of Tampa Bay

Women’s Equality Coalition, Kansas City