



**Resolution Calling for N.C. Ratification
of the
Equal Rights Amendment**

WHEREAS, the City of Southport supports equal rights for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, women constitute over 51% of the population of the state of North Carolina and 62% of the population of the City of Southport, and women play an essential and irreplaceable role in society, contributing to our economy and advancing our city, state, and nation in both public and private realms; and

WHEREAS, the City of Southport is an inclusive community that welcomes and embraces the diversity, talents, and expertise of all people; and

WHEREAS, women continue to confront workplace discrimination, wage inequities, health care inequities, higher rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults, a lack of political parity, and other forms of sex or gender-based discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause has not been interpreted to guarantee equal rights for women in the same way that the Equal Rights Amendment would, just as race, national origin, and religion do; and

WHEREAS, state and federal anti-discrimination laws are not uniform or comprehensive, and can be repealed or reduced; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress in 1972, and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment has met the constitutional requirement for ratification by 38 states. and is awaiting certification by the U.S. Archivist pending resolution of issues regarding a time limit in its preamble, rather than in its text, and

WHEREAS, the time limit can be removed by Congress, and removal of the time limit was passed by bipartisan vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 17, 2021, and

WHEREAS, removal of the time limit is pending in the U.S. Senate, and


WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment is essential for correcting sex discrimination, since it would guarantee that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex"; and

WHEREAS, Equal Rights Amendment ratification bills were introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly in 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021 but have not passed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Aldermen of the City of Southport calls on the N.C. General Assembly to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in order to join the growing list of states supporting a guarantee of equal constitutional rights to all citizens without regard to their sex; and

THAT, the Board of Aldermen of the City of Southport calls on the U.S. Senate to support the validity of certification by the Archivist by joining with the U.S. House in passing the bipartisan bill: US SJR1 removing the time limit on the states for ratification.

ADOPTED this 10th day of February 2022.



Joseph P. Hatem, M.D., M.P.H.
Mayor, City of Southport



Dorothy Dutton, City Clerk

