

MOTION:

November 20, 2018

SECOND:

Regular Meeting

Res. No. 18-

**RE: SUPPORT OF RATIFICATION BY VIRGINIA OF THE EQUAL
RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee equal rights and equal protections for the sexes; and

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and state constitutional statements of equality generally do not provide the strict scrutiny for sex-based classifications that is provided for classifications based on race, religion, and national origin; and

WHEREAS, state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive, and these laws can be repealed or reduced; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States continue to experience the negative effects of lack of political parity between men and women, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), passed by Congress in 1972, and ratified by 37 states, provides 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, the time limit for the ERA appears only in the preamble; and Congress presently is considering a bill that removes the time limit for ratification of the ERA; and

WHEREAS, for 47 years, the Virginia State Constitution has sought to protect Virginians from discrimination by the Commonwealth on the basis of sex; and

WHEREAS, Prince William County enforces principles of fair treatment of its employment applicants and employees without discrimination on the basis of sex, and prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors supports the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment;

November 20, 2018
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 18-
Page Two

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors urges the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, during the 2019 legislative session, to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

ATTEST: _____
Acting Clerk to the Board