

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT HURTS WOMEN AND CHILDREN — BORN AND UNBORN



ACT NOW

The 2019 Virginia General Assembly session starts January 9th. There has been an increased push to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the U.S. Constitution this session.

The ERA at first glance appears to be a neutral measure advocating for the equality of women which is a worthy endeavor; however, the ambiguity of the language disguises significant negative consequences and legal uncertainty particularly when it comes to protecting the unborn. Legal protections for women are already found in both federal and state laws, including the Virginia Equal Pay Act.

Leading pro-abortion groups have used the ERA found in other state Constitutions as a tool to challenge laws that treat abortion differently from other "medical procedures," including laws restricting tax-payer funding of abortions and laws requiring parental consent.

Please act now to voice your opposition to Virginia's ratification of the ERA as drafted. Your witness is vital to educating your neighbors and legislators about the dangers behind the ERA!

**To make your voice heard visit:
www.vacatholic.org/action-center/**



CONCERNS WITH ERA:

MOOT

The ERA's ratification deadline passed over 30 years ago, rendering it legally moot. When the negative impacts of the ERA became clear, 5 states rescinded their ratifications.

ABORTION IMPLICATIONS

In New Mexico, the ERA arguments of NARAL and Planned Parenthood succeeded. The New Mexico Supreme Court unanimously ruled, on the basis of its state ERA, that denial of taxpayer funding for abortions is "sex discrimination" thereby requiring taxpayer funded abortions.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Legal challenges and uncertainty would arise over the lawfulness of programs and facilities that serve and assist women exclusively.

BETTER WAYS TO PROTECT WOMEN

Well drafted unambiguous legislation seeking to correct specific problems facing women would be more effective and create significantly less confusion.