

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

WHEREAS, SB184 and HB271 were introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly, (ERA ratification bills) on March 5th and 6th, 2019 and co-sponsored by a significant majority of the Mecklenburg County Delegation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee that all rights are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex; and

WHEREAS, On March 22, 1972, the Equal Rights Amendment was passed by the U.S. Senate and sent to the states for ratification; the Amendment was to provide for the legal equality of the sexes and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex; and

WHEREAS, women continue to confront a lack of political parity, workplace discrimination, health care inequities, disparate rates of poverty, sexual assault and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, women play a critical role in the Mecklenburg County economy, supporting families, education, nonprofits, and communities; and

WHEREAS, according to *The Status of Women in North Carolina* report, commissioned by the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement in 2018, women are 35% more likely to live below the poverty line than men; women overall in Mecklenburg County earn 73 cents for every dollar earned by men; 52% of the Mecklenburg County population are women; and Mecklenburg County supports equality for all its residents; and

WHEREAS, according to a report from the Mecklenburg County Women's Advisory Board, the wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family \$700,000 to \$2 million in lost wages over their working lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina will make history by being the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, which is a demonstration by the State of North Carolina of its commitment to equality and fairness; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners supports the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.

Adopted this the ____ Day of April 2019

George Dunlap, Chair