

The original documents are located in Box 57, folder “HU 2 Equality 2/21/75 Folder 3 of 5” of the White House Social Files Subject File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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February 11, 1975

Mrs. Gerald Ford
c/o White House
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Ford,

After reading an article in our local newspaper saying that you are urging our congressmen to vote in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment, I felt that you should know the feelings of a wife and mother who feels she is quite liberated without this act becoming part of our United States Constitution.

I am definitely in favor of "Equal pay for equal work" but we already have that assurance as women in The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Subchapter VI: Equal Employment Opportunities (42 U.S. Code 2000e-2) and The Equal Opportunities Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-261).

You have my utmost respect as a wife and mother and I think you are a woman of integrity, so I am asking that you investigate further the possibilities of what could happen under this law.

Some women prefer to have the title of 'Homemaker' and to experience being a mother more than leaving her children in the care of someone else. Under this law, a woman could be forced to equally support her family, or totally support them if she is a better wage earner. To me this is not liberation.

The fact that if the draft is effected again, women would be subject to register at age 18 and would have to serve if called. If you have children and you are called before your husband, you go and he would be deferred. You would be sharing sleeping quarters, restrooms, showers, etc. with men. I cannot imagine the turmoil this would make in families.

The fact that God made man and woman different should speak for itself in that if He had intended for women to be the 'bread winner' why did He make her the childbearer.

As a woman who enjoys being a woman and homemaker but works to help because I have the choice not because it is mandatory, I ask you to consider what the consequences could be if this law goes into effect. I am asking you to let your integrity and common sense come into play on this matter and reconsider



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your position on the Equal Rights Amendment. I am sure that you would have the appreciation of many, many women.

If after you have looked into the possibilities of what might eventually take place because of this law and you still feel that you need to support it, I will be disappointed but will try to understand and not hold ill feelings toward you.

May God continue to bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Mildred Burroughs

Mrs. Dale Burroughs (Mildred)
206 West 7th
Ellinwood, Kansas 67526

P.S. I'd like for you to read the enclosed paper concerning the ERA and what could happen under its effect.

Thankyou.

