# The original documents are located in Box 47, folder "Women - Equal Rights Amendment -State Legislatures" of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Digitized from Box 47 of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

JOHN B. ANDERSON

CHAIRMAN, REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

MEMBER: Joint Committee on Atomic Energy

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Mashington, D.C. 20515

-

February 7, 1975

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1101 LONGWORTH BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-5676

DISTRICT OFFICE: Rock River Savings Building 401 W. State Street Rockford, Illinois 61101 (815) 962-8807

Ms. Sheila Wedenfeld Press Secretary for Mrs. Ford THE WHITE HOUSE Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Wedenfeld:

Enclosed is a copy of the news item which appeared this week in the <u>Rockford Morning Star</u>, Rockford, Illinois.

As you can tell the article does seem to make State Senator Harris come off better than I was earlier led to understand. In any event, Harris still opposes ERA.

Thanks for trying.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours.

MICHAEL J. MASTERSON Administrative Assistant

Enclosure



**Congress of the United States** House of Representatives Mashington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



1. 1.

6 11

Ms. Sheila Wedenfeld Press Secretary for Mrs. Ford THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500 326A Pond St. DeKalb, Illinois 60115



Ms. Sheila Weidenfeld The White House Washington, D. C. 20500

WHITE HOUSE MAIL RECEPTION & SECURITY FEB 11. 1975 Processed by:



Dear Ms. Weidenfeld,

(home office)

Today I spoke with someone in your office about getting help from Betty Ford in our efforts to ratify ERA in Illinois. This is the immediate problem: we have invited our state legislators to meet with us February 23. Three of them are opposed to ERA, one favors it. Only the one who favors ERA has agreed to meet with us. Since the purpose of this meeting is to lobby those legislators opposed to ERA, I am afraid that the meeting will not accomplish much if they do not even show up.

The person with whom I spoke suggested that Mrs. Ford might be willing to call these three men and urge them to meet with us (and, of course, to vote for ERA). So, here are their phone numbers:

Sen. David Shapiro 815-857-2877 (home) 217-782-6346 (Springfield office)	(who has voted against ERA twice. His secretary told me that he will be unable to meet with us because his schedule is quite hectic and he will not be in this area February 23.)
Rep. Joseph Ebbesen 815-756-4666 (home) 217-782-8002 (Springfield office)	(who has voted "present" on ERA once. He says that he expects to be out of town February 23, but that if he can rearrange his schedule, he will meet with us. Perhaps a phone call from Mrs. Ford would persuade him to rearrange his schedule.)
Rep. Calvin Schuneman 815-537-2066 (home) 815-537-2301	(who was just elected. he says he will be out of the area February 23 and therefore is unable to attend.)

Since we initially contacted these men in mid-January, I accept their claims of prior committments (and their apologies) with some skepticism. I recently attended a Chamber of Commerce dinner in DeKalb which both Shapiro and Ebbesen managed to find time to attend.

The meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m., February 23, in the Capitol Room of the Holmes Center, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb. Sponsoring groups include: League of Women Voters, Business and Professional Women, Academic Women for Equality, National Organization for Women, American Association of University Women, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Mrs. Ford's efforts on behalf of ERA have made headlines in Illinois, and any help she could give us would be appreciated greatly. This is rather urgent: the Illinois Senate is scheduled to vote on ERA Friday, February 14; ERA will then be taken up in the House. If Mrs. Ford does contact our legislators, could you please let me know?

Many thanks, Jan Jarnik

Jan Czarnik 37th District ERA YES Committee

326A Pond St. DeKalb Illinois 60115 815-756-7124 (home)

WNIU-FM Northern Illinois University DeKalb Illinois 60115 815-753-0213 (office)

FORD

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February 10, 1975

Western Union Mailgram

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(Editor's Note: Text of telegram sent Saturday, February 8, 1975 to Mrs. Betty Ford, wife of the President of the United States, by Mrs. Phyllis Schlafly of Alton, Ill., president of Stop the Equal Rights Amendment, and a prominent Republican leader.)

TO MRS BETTY FORDSTODAYS WIRE SERVICES REPORT THAT YOU SPONSORED AND ATTENDED TWO COMMAND BRIEFINGS ON THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT FOR BOTH MALE AND FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF IN THE WHITE HOUSE THEATER DURING WORKING HOURS.

SINCE THE WHITE HOUSE THEATER IS THE PROPERTY OF U.S. TAXPAYERS, AND SINCE WHITEHOUSE EMPLOYEES ARE PAID BY U.S. TAXPAYERS, AND SINCE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION SPECIFIES THAT RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENT IS A MATTER FOR THE INDIVIDUAL STATE LEGISLATURESIN WHICH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS NO PART, AND SINCE FOUR STATES LEGISLATURES THIS YEAR HAVE REJECTED ERA WHILE ONLY ONE HAS RATIFIED, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST EQUAL TIME TO PRESENT THE OTHER SIDE OF ERA TO THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF IN THE WHITE HOUSE THEATER WITH ATTENDANCE LIKE WISE COMMANDED.

I ALSO RESPECTFULLY REQUEST AN ACCOUNTING OF HOW MUCH FEDERAL MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT BY YOU AND OTHER WHITE HOUSE PERSONNEL IN MAKING LONG DISTANCE CALLS TO LEGISLATORS, AND HOW MUCH FEDERAL MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT ON SALARIES OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WORKING FOR RATIFICATION OF ERA. PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, STOP ERA 68 FAIRMOUNT ALTON IL 62002

00:31 EST

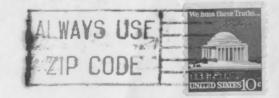
MGMWSHT HSB

# JOHN V. HINKEL

200

National Press Building Washington, D. C. 20004





Miss Nancy Sheridan,

Mrs. Ford's Press Office,

The White House,

Washington D.C.

## THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

February 17, 1975

Sheila,

John Deerdorf called with the following:

Carolyn Bond, the wife of Missouri's Governor, has a 9:30 a.m. appointment with Clem Conger on Friday, February 21st in connection with extensive restorations to the Governor's Mansion. After this 9:30 appointment, she would like to have a photo opportunity (if possible) with Mrs. Ford discussing the ERA, as well as a photo taken with Clem Conger during their meeting.

Mrs. Bond is doing a large amount of ERA work and John feels having her picture taken with Mrs. Ford will help the state movement.

Governor and Mrs. Bond will be in Washington on Wednesday, and John would like to know the answer this Tuesday. A message can either be left at the Governor's Mansion (314/751-4141) or the Governor's Office where John will be (314/751-3222).



10 Feb. 1975 Dear Ms. Sheridan This Mailgram copy was dis-thibuted today by Mrs. Schlafly's representatives, so I thought ye you'd like to see it. Thank you again for your help to me today. Jehn U. (find ohn V. Hinkel - Saug 123 12th P.S.



111-A N.W. 23rd • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103 • 528-3501

February 14, 1975

Mrs. Mary Louise Smith Chairman Republican National Committee 310 First Street, S. E. Washington, D. C. 20003

Dear Mary Louise:

As you can see by the copy of our letter to Mrs. Ford, we are very disturbed by her decision to actively promote the ratification of the ERA.

We are doubtful that she will ever see or know of our letter to her, so we would like to have your suggestions of further action we might take to get our message to her. We would also appreciate your help in convincing Mrs. Ford that she should refrain from campaigning for this controversial amendment.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Grace Boulton National Committeewoman Member for Oklahoma

Delen Salmon

Mrs. Helen Salmon State Vice-Chairman Oklahoma State Committee

Mrs. Edwina Mizer State President Okla. Federation of Republican Wmen

rb



# Republican National Committee.

Mary Louise Smith Chairman

to send to path matson

February 26, 1975

Mrs. Grace Boulton National Committeewoman for Oklahoma Republican National Committee 1701 N.E. 63rd Street Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111

Dear Grace:

As you know there are wide variations of opinion, even within our own Party, in regard to the Equal Rights Amendment. Many times it seems that life would be simpler if we all agreed on everything but obviously that will never happen.

I believe that the Republican Party is broad enough and strong enough to encompass different views on specific issues within the framework of our basic principles. In this context I think it is proper for everyone, including President and Mrs. Ford, to enjoy the privilege of expressing a personal point of views.

The Republican Platform, adopted at the National Convention in 1972, calls for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. I personally support this position because of my strong adherence to the precepts of individual freedom and equality. In spite of the fact that ERA has become a controversial issue, I still believe our ability to differ is a strength, not a weakness.

I believe that Mrs. Ford is very much aware of expressions for and against the stand she has taken in regard to ERA. I will, however, take steps to call her particular attention to your letter.

Thank you very much for writing to me about this matter. I respect your views highly and through your sharing of them with me I develop a greater appreciation of feelings at large.

Sincerely,

Mary Louise Smith

cc: Mrs. Helen Salmon, Mrs. Edwina Mizer

Dwight D. Eisenhower Republican Center: 310 First Street Southeast, Washington, D.C. 20003. (202) 484-6500.



111-A N.W. 23rd • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103 • 528-3501

February 14, 1975

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

The news that you are actively urging ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment is very disturbing to us here in Oklahoma because both the State Republican Convention and the State Federation of Republican Women have overwhelmingly adopted resolutions opposing the ERA. This is certainly not to suggest that we oppose equal rights for all citizens; but we believe the proposed amendment, if ratified, could have harmful consequences for many citizens. We therefore respectfully request that you reconsider your active support of the ERA for the following reasons:

- 1. Because the amendment is worded in extremely general terms, we cannot know the legal ramifications which may ensue if it is ratified. Its vague terms would certainly subject the amendment to broad interpretation, and court rulings in various states might conflict. An excellent example of the conflicting interpretations of the amendment's likely results is found in the arguments advanced by the proponents and opponents of the ERA. In these arguments, both sides cite expert legal opinions stating exactly opposite interpretations of the probable consequences of the amendment. Since there is so much variation in legal opinion, there would surely be variation in court interpretation. Consequently, court battles similar to those resulting from civil rights legislation could easily develop, and litigation could continue for years.
- 2. All laws designed to protect only one sex, such as those dealing with sex crimes, marriage, child support, and working conditions undoubtedly would be nullified if the ERA is rigidly enforced.
- 3. Many women believe they should remain at home to care for their children rather than pursue careers; to do so they need full financial support from their husbands. If the ERA is ratified, women might lose the freedom to choose

SKIP HEALEY National Committeeman MRS. DON (Grace) BOULTON N itional Committeewoman Mrs. Gerald Ford February 14, 1975 Page 2

> between the role of homemaker and career woman because women will become equally responsible for the financial support of their children. Furthermore, divorced women who have custody of children might no longer have the help of the law and the courts to require their former husbands to provide for the support of their children.

- 4. Should it become necessary to resume the draft, it will be mandatory to draft women for the armed forces. Congress will no longer have discretion in this matter.
- Existing civil rights laws are adequate to bring about equal pay for equal work without causing the consequences mentioned above.

In summary, the proposed Equal Rights Amendment would not grant to women rights which cannot be achieved under existing legislation, and it could very possibly be interpreted in a manner which could be harmful to many women. We should utilize existing legislation and enact appropriate state laws to deal with discrimination where it exists. We believe that this approach would be far more practical and responsible than the adoption of a vaguely worded law with uncertain meaning and unknown consequences.

Emotions are very strong on this subject where women realize the possible impact of the amendment. We believe you would be wise to change your course of action on the ERA.

Sincerely,

Grace Boulton National Committeewoman Member for Oklahoma

NI Helen Salmon

State Vice-Chairman Oklahoma State Committee

Edwina Mizer, State Pres. Oklahoma Federation of Republican Women

rb

cc Senator Henry Bellmon, Oklahoma Senator Dewey F. Bartlett, Oklahoma Rep. John Jarman, Oklahoma Mrs. Mary Louise Smith, Chairman RNC Richard D. Obenshain, Co-Chairman RNC Robert J. Shaw, Georgia State Chairman Clarke Reed, Mississippi State Chairman Mrs. Constance Armitage, Nat'l Fed. Rep. Women Mrs. Paula Hawkins, Florida Nat'l Committeewoman Skip Healey, Oklahoma Nat'l Committeeman Clarence E. Warner, Oklahoma State Chairman



The White House Washington

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\* PMS MRS BETTY FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

KANSAS RATIFIED ERA IN 1972. KANSAS HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2017
 CALLED FOR RESCISSION BY VOTE OF KANSAS ELECTORATE. CURRENT KANSAS
 ACTION MAY DEFEAT MISSOURI SENATE VOTE FOR RATIFICATION. WOULD
 APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT IN URGING DEFEAT OF HCR2017 BY RETURN
 TELEGRAM TO SENATE PRESIDENT RICHARD ROGERS AND HOUSE SPEAKER DUANE
 MCGILL KANSAS STATE HOUSE 66612 WOULD SUGGEST YOU ASK THAT YOUR
 TELEGRAM BE READ DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

TOPEKA WOMENS POLITICAL CAUCUS

23 BY DOROTHY LINDSTROM, PRESIDENT

CARE 111 NORTH WESTERN

26 TOPEKA KANSAS 66606

24

WHB 030 (2250) (2-05291 1E 064) PD 03/05/75 2250 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

9132342934 TOBN TOPEKA KS 69 03-05 1050P EST

PMS MRS BETTY FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

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 TOPEKA WOMENS POLITICAL CAUCUS

BY DOROTHY LINDSTROM, PRESIDENT

CARE 111 NORTH WESTERN

26 TOPEKA KANSAS 66606

23 24

25



ABC Affiliate Communications Center Dallas, Texas 75202 (214) 748-9631

2/28/75

Ms. Nancy Howe 3017 Cathedral Avenue N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008

DEAR MS. HOWE,

I DON'T KNOW IN YOU REMEMBER ME, BUT WE MET ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO IN WASHINGTON, WHILE I WAS VISITING DAVID KENNERLY.

My sister is a New York State Senator and asked me to write to Mrs. Ford about the status of the Equal Rights Admendment in New York.

I have enclosed a letter to Mrs. Ford from me and one from my sister, I would appreciate your giving them to her.

THANK YOU.

SINCERELY, LLEN BURS

MEDICAL REPORTER



One copy of this has been delivered today (Sunday, March 2) to Sheila Weidenfeld's home; one copy to her at the White House; and one copy to Patty Matson at the White House. I will call Monday AM about it. Thanks.

, Daile

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

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This information compiled by Louie from Teague, Fair and the ERA forces.

# INDIANA SENATE

#### FOR

### AGAINST

Christy (D) Benjamin (D) Kovach (D) Richard (D) Townsend (D) Stanley (D) Gery (D) Teague (D) Piper (D) Garton (R) Lewis (D) O'Bannon (D) Fair (D) Clay (D) Telle (R) Lindquist (R) Lauck (D) Mills (R) Carroll (D) O Day (D) Tipton (D)

Niemeyer (R) Snowden(R) McDaniel (R) Shawley (R) Kelley(R) Augsburger (R) Gutman (R) Sullivan (R) Jessup (R) Edwards (R) Gubbins (R) Bosma (R) Swisher (R) Sheaffer (R) Wilson (R) Bauer (D)

# -POTENTIALS-

- ✓ Les Duvall (R of Indianapolis) -- waivering
- John Mutz (R Indianapolis) -- wants to run for mayor if Lugar doesn't -- reconsidering

Herman Fanning (D)

Joe Brugenschmidt (D) -- believes district against ERA .

Joe Harrison (R - Attica) -- Anti union steel executive who is reportedly possible

Keith McCormick (R - Lebanon)

Wilfred Ullrich (D) -- also thinks district against it

James Gardner (R - Fowler) -- lawyer, supposed to be best shot



Indiana ERA vote count...

Ralph Potesta (R - Hammond) -- possible

Angeline Allstatt (D) -- originally announced against, now waivering, feels she now has a credibility problem Larry Borst (R - Indianapolis) -- could go either way Harry Thompson (R - Evansville) -- possible

TO: Sheila Weidenfeld

March 2, 1975

FROM: Doug Bailey John Deardourff

REQUEST: ERA Telephone Call to Illinois State Senator John Nimrod on Monday, March 3rd.

1. The Illinois Senate Vote is now scheduled for late Tuesday afternoon, March 4th. The expected ruling will be for a 51% majority (30 votes). ERA will have 30 votes or more, unless some nervous Senators "take a walk". Senator Nimrod is under some pressure to do just that.

2. Senator John Nimrod is a middle-of-the-road Republican, in his second Senate term, from the suburban Chicago Cook County District covering Maine Township. He voted against ERA in 1973; he voted for ERA in 1974; and until the last few days has been considered a sure pro-ERA vote this year. His constituency is heavily Jewish -- and he recognizes their strong support of ERA.

But he is getting very heavy pressure from the Republican organization in Cook County and his District to vote "No" or to "take a walk". The Cook County GOP Chairman (who is currently under federal indictment) is strongly anti-ERA. And Nimrod's District GOP Chairman is also.

Senator Nimrod knows he should vote for it, and a call would probably give him the confidence to do so.

3. Purpose of call: To assure that Senator Nimrod will be present and will vote for ERA on Tuesday.

- 4. Some suggested points for the call:
  - a. Indicate that the call is confidential unless he wishes otherwise.
  - b. Indicate that this is your only call -- that you had called Senator Harris a few weeks ago -- but that this time you wanted to talk with a strong ERA supporter.
  - c. Inquire as to how he thinks the vote will go. Ask whether there have been any Republican defections on the issue.
  - d. Indicate how important continued GOP backing for ERA is, for the Party in Illinois and nationally.
  - e. Ask whether all the pro-ERA votes will be there. Say that you had heard that Senator Roe (R, pro-ERA) was in the hospital and that you hoped he could make the vote -- that with a set number of votes needed, an absence is just as much a vote against as an actual "no" vote.
  - f. Ask him to call Sheila Weidenfeld after the vote competence you know what happened.
- 5. Timing of the call: Monday, March 3rd. Jugund in Jenpron Exhibit

February 10, 1975

TO: Sheila Weidenfeld

FROM: Doug Bailey John Deardourff

REQUEST: A White House Visit for key Indiana ERA Figures.

- 1. The key battleground for ERA looks like it might be Indiana. If Illinois, Missouri, and North Carolina all ratify, then Indiana can be the 38th.
- 2. The Indiana House (Democratic) has already passed it. The Indiana Senate (GOP) has not -- and if it were voted on today it would lose. We must switch 3 GOP Senate votes.
- 3. The ERA sponsors in the Indiana Senate are waiting for other States to ratify so the pressure will mount, but a mid-to-late March vote seems likely.
- 4. The central fitures are three GOP leaders:
  - -- Gov. Doc Bowen, who has been for it but not actively.
  - -- State GOP Chairman Tom Milligan, who has been for it but not actively.
  - -- State Senate President Philip Gutman (pronounced GOOT-man) who has been mildly opposed, but could be brought around -and in turn could influence another 4 or 5 Senate votes.

If Bowen and Milligan can be more directly committed, and if Gutman can be influenced to work for it, ERA will pass.

- 5. The ideal solution: A White House invitation to the three and their wives to have lunch or dinner with the President and Mrs. Ford -- before the end of February. No one else would be present -except perhaps White House staff aides. It would be entirely private unless the Indiana people wished it otherwise. We could provide detailed briefing memoranda on the background -- and how to approach the subject.
- 6. If these three saw it as a personal request from the President and Mrs. Ford, it would happen. And if Indiana ratifies this year, the battle will have been won.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Date 3/3/75

ACTION

file

Mr. Paul A. Miltich Special Assistant to the President for Public Affairs The White House Washington, D. C.

0 6

TO: The First Lady

FROM: Paul A. Miltich

FYI I

OTHER :

Mrs. Ford: I thought you would be interested in the content of the attached editorial. XRAD

GATEWAY TOWER, ONE MEMORIAL DRIVE ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102 PHONE: {314} 621-2345/CBS Owned

This is one of a continuing series of KMOX Radio editorials on topics of vital interest to the community and is the opinion of the management. Responsible representatives of opposing viewpoints are given the opportunity to reply on the air. If you missed the broadcast of this editorial, we hope you will read it. Your comments are always most welcome. Robert Hyland, Regional Vice President, CBS Radio Division

SUBJECT: #75-22 Mrs. Ford and ERA

BROADCAST: February 26, 1975 8:44 AM, 5:20 PM

First Lady Betty Ford has caused quite a storm with her activities in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. She has been making phone calls to state legislators urging them to vote for ERA. Lawmakers in Missouri and Illinois have received her calls.

Some of them don't like it. Representative Donald E. Deuster of Illinois, an opponent of ERA, says the President's wife should "immediately desist" her long-distance campaign. He calls it "demeaning to the stature of the First Lady." The White House acknowledges that Mrs. Ford's mail is running three to one against her action.

KMOX Radio has opposed the Equal Rights Amendment in several editorials. We believe it could have the long-range effect of undermining family life and legal protections for women. But we heartily approve of Mrs. Ford's working for passage of ERA or any other political goal. In our opinion, American politics would be strengthened by increased activity by women as office seekers, party leaders and political activists at all levels. This could help our nation shake off its political apathy, and reverse the disgracefully low voter turnout figures.

When we start regarding political activity by a first lady, or any citizen, as "demeaning", our democracy is in big trouble. We're going to tell Mrs. Ford how we feel and hope you will too.

# Harch 20, 1975

The Honorable James Washburn Leader of the Minority House of Representatives Illinois General Assembly State Capitol Building Springfield, Illinois

Dear Representative Washburn:

Thank you for your kindness in discussing the ERA status in Illinois with me.

The recent news from the Illinois Senate was certainly disheartening and confusing. Indeed, it was bearable only because your own firm expression of support for a Rule of 89 in the House gave me assurance that the Amendment still has a good chance in Illinois.

I would be very grateful if you might call me or my office (Sheila Weidenfeld) periodically to keep me informed on the status. As you know, the Equal Rights Amendment is a matter of the highest personal priority with me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Betty Ford

alb

#### Harch 10, 1975

The Honorable James Washburn Leader of the Minority House of Representatives Illinois General Assembly State Capitol Building Springfield, Illinois

Vear Representative Washburn:

Thank you for your kindness in discussing the ERA status in Illinois with me.

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Sincerely,

Betty Ford

mfb

#### March 20, 1975

The Honorable James Washburn Leader of the Minority House of Representatives Illinois General Assembly State Capitol Building Springfield, Illinois

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Sincerely,

Betty Ford

meb

March 14, 1975

TO: Sheila Weidenfeld

FROM: Doug Bailey John Deardourff

REQUEST: A Letter Along the Lines of the Following Draft.

The Honorable James Washburn Leader of the Minority House of Representatives Illinois General Assembly State Capitol Building Springfield, Illinois

Dear Representative Washburn:

Thank you for your kindness in discussing the ERA status in Illinois with me.

The recent news from the Illinois Senate was certainly disheartening and confusing. Indeed, it was bearable only because your own firm expression of support for a Rule of 89 in the House gave me assurance that the Amendment still has a good chance in Illinois.

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Sincerely,

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

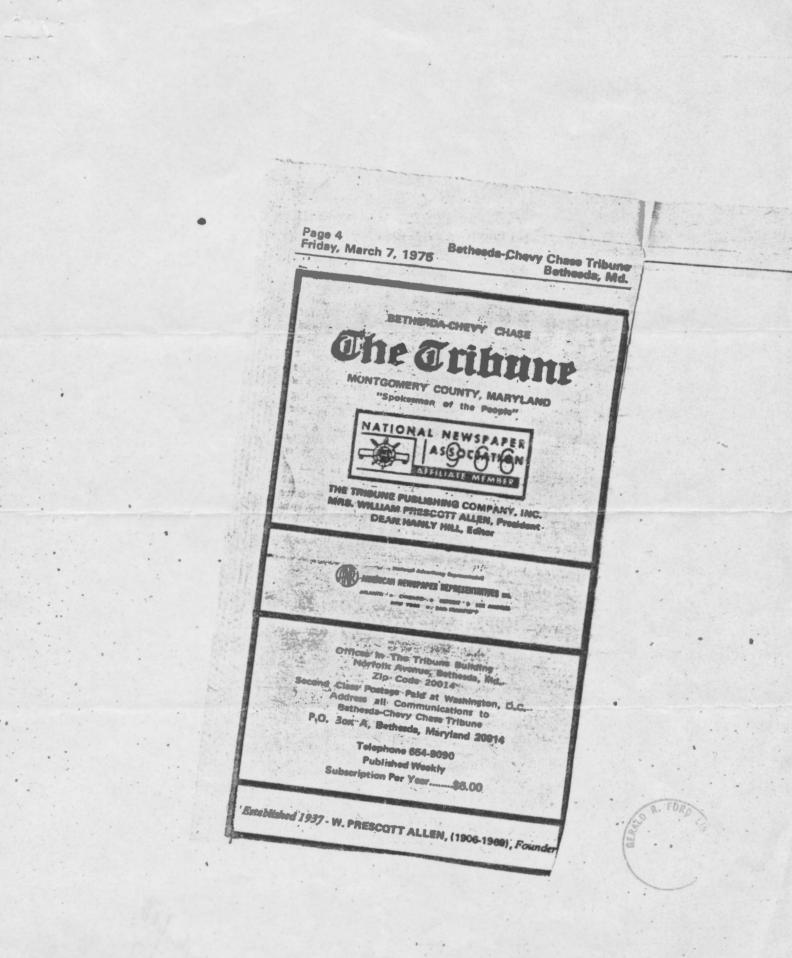
# In Support of E.R.A. And Betty Ford

#### To The Editor:

Reportedly, the White House is receiving phone calls three - to - one against Mrs. Ford's telephone lobbying for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Perhaps those of us, women as well as men, Republicans as well as Democrats, who see the Amendment as one that belatedly offers all citizens of the United States equal rights and protection under the law, are simply not phone callers.

Betty Ford is asserting her prerogative as a citizento persuade lawmakers to recognize the merits of the Amendment — not to be swayed by the specious arguments and fear tactics of the ERA adversaries.

> Constance A. Morella Bethesda



#1120 733 15 M.W. Washington DC 20005

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Ms. Sheila Weidenfeld Office of Mrs. Ford The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

#### March 24, 1975

#### Dear Peg:

Just a note to thank you for your vote on behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment. It was a courageous vote, and one made more difficult, I am sure, by the pressures being brought to bear on Hissouri. But your vote was right -- and will be proven right in the long run -- and this is what counts in the final analysis.

Again, my sincere appreciation for all you have done.

Sincerely,

Betty Ford

State Representative Hargaret Hiller In care of The State Capitol Jefferson City, Hissouri 65101

meb

#### Harch 24, 1975

#### Dear Peg:

Just a note to thank you for your vote on behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment. It was a courageous vote, and one made more difficult, I am sure, by the pressures being brought to bear on Missouri. But your vote was right -- and will be proven right in the long run -- and this is what counts in the final analysis.

Again, my sincere appreciation for all you have done.

Sincerely,

#### Betty Ford

State Representative Margaret Hiller In care of The State Capitol Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

FORD

meb

## March 24, 1975

Dear Peg:

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Again, my sincere appreciation for all you have done.

Sincerely,

Betty Ford

State Representative Margaret Miller In care of The State Capitol Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

meb



Sheila -- information from Florida for Mrs. Ford - ERA

Legislature meets in Florida April 8 (in Tallahassee)

Meanwhile, committees have been meeting, and the House Committee has reported ERA out by 9-0 vote.

The House vote will probably come during the first week they convene. They think they have enough votes for it to pass in the House.

The real question is in the Senate, and that vote should come about the third week in April. Could be as close as 21-19 -that's what it was the last time (it failed).

Two names you might want to be aware of:

\*Bill Taylor: the new Republican State Chairman who is against the ERA

\*Dempsey Barron: President of the Senate. Is on record as being against the ERA and has been heard saying he would vote against it 'for consistency's sake.' He would, however, permit it to come to the floor and probably would not actively oppose.

## ERA synopsis of criticism and possible questions

Do you plan to continue your campaign in Florida? or Why aren't you making any appearances on behalf of the ERA here? or What will your strategy be to help the ERA in Florida?

## general points:

I don't have what you would call a 'strategy.' I understand the vote here is about a month-and-a-half away. So it's kind of a matter of watching and waiting, and sure -- when the time comes, if there's some way I can help, I'll be happy to.

## important themes:

- -all I'm doing is expressing my opinion (exercising same freedom of speech everyone is this country has ... it is not 'heavy lobbying' -- a matter of calling and letting the legislator know how I feel)
- it is not a state issue, it is ratification of an amendment to our Constitution -- <u>national legislation</u>. Having been a congressman's wife for 26 years, no one knows better about things like state vs. federal prerogatives. But this just is not strictly a state issue, it pertains to national legislation.
- -Equal time? Our ERA briefing was informational, bringing people up to date on what is happening in each state. So there's nothing, really, to give 'equal time' to ...
- Of course I expected criticism. If I weren't getting it, I'd worry that I wasn't doing any good.
- -(on spending govt money for phone calls)- You know, I'm in a strange position. My home is also a government office -- and short of having a pay phone installed, I haven't figured out another way to do it ...

Schlafly's two main arguments against your involvement:

- that it is a state issue
- that you're spending federal money in your effort

she wants equal time to present her views.

## Possible points you might make:

"This is an issue that involves ratification of an amendment to our Constitution and is there fore <u>national</u> legislation ... and more than that, the right of anyone in our country to express an opinion is basic to life here... I don't think anyone -- even the wife of a President -should be prohibited from expressing her views. "

You have not spent any government money in doing this ... (specifically, the ERA briefings were on lunch time, employees coming <u>voluntarily</u> (about 160 came), and the calls you've made have been brief -- only expressing your opinion -- and on a wats line).

\*\* The ERA briefing was an informational briefing and not to persuade. It brought people up to date on what was happening in what states. So there's nothing, really, to give "equal time" to ...

## Question that may come up:

You're getting some backlash and criticism. Do you intend to continue in your effort?

### Possible points:

I will continue to do whatever I can as long as I feel I can be helpful. Anytime you take a strong stand on a controversial issue you have to expect criticism, and I knew it would come. But I've discussed it with my husband and my staff and have told them I'm perfectly willing to take the heat -- and that it's a small price to pay if the ERA goes through.

If I weren't getting criticism, I'd worry that what I was doing had not been successful -- the only time people start complaining is when they're on the other side of the fence and they think you're doing some good! How are you making up your mind who to call?

As you can imagine, our office has been flooded with calls since my support became known. We take all the suggestions, check with people we know, and just kind of sift through and do what we think might be hedpful. We wish we could make all the calls people would like us to (or do more ...)

Your efforts yesterday in Arizona didn't seem to do much good. How did you feel about that?

I recognize that I can't count on it winning in each and every place that I try -- but you could base your efforts on whether or not you don't base your You keep trying. efforts on whether or not you think you'll win.

I was disappointed of course ... but we all knew if was going to be a tough one and very close.

I'm sure it will come up again and every time it will have a better chance -- I would just as soon have it be sooner than later, that's all!

(Arizona lost 16-14)

Shlafly tries to bill herself as ultra-feminine, wife and mother -- and all the pro-ERA people as feminists and radicals.

X Your stressing how much you enjoy being a feminine wife and mother -- and still believe in the ERA -- would greatly help, especially today ...



THE WHITE HOUSE

Date 4/13/25 MEMO TO: Patti

FROM:

PAT LINDH

For appropriate handling

Per your request\_

Remarks: As me dismand

# nwpc

## National Women's Political Caucus

1921 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 785-2911

April 3, 1975

Ms. Pat Lindh White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Pat:

Some time ago we talked about the possibility of your finding some way to get the word to some of the Republican legislators in Illinois concerning ERA, should the strategy be to attempt to line up the necessary 3/5 vote to pass it in the State Senate. Our people in Illinois tell us that is exactly what they are attempting to do, so if it is possible for you to exert some influence, the following are the targeted gentlemen:

- Sen. Nimrod, 4th Leg. Dst. (Maine Twshp, NW of Chicago). Voted yes on 3/5. Yes on ERA - '74. No on ERA - '73.
- Sen. Soper, 7th LD. (Cicero, Lyons). Yes on 3/5. Yes on ERA, '73 & '74. Now he is wavering.
- Sen. Moore, 9th LD. (Park Forest, S of Chicago). Voted yes on 3/5. Yes on ERA in '72. No on ERA - '73,'74.
- Sen. Bell, 42nd LD. (Joliet). Yes on 3/5. Yes on ERA '73. No on ERA '74.
- Sen. Davidson, 50th LD (Springfield). Yes on 3/5. No vote on ERA '73. Yes on ERA - '74.

As you can see, all these men at some time or other have expressed some support for ERA, so they are not hopeless cases. We certainly hope you will be able to use this information.

Thanks for all your cooperation!

Sincerely,

Fredrica W. Wechsler Political Action Coordinator

April 15, 1975

TO: Sheila Weidenfeld

FROM: Doug Bailey John Deardourff

SUBJECT: An ERA Call Today to Governor Holshouser

1. The North Carolina House is scheduled to vote late today or tomorrow on ERA. The vote, as usual, is extremely close. We think we have the votes, barely. If the House passes, the chances in the Senate look very good.

2. Of the 10 Republicans in the House, 4 will be voting for ERA. Two more are "possibles":

LAWRENCE COBB; from Charlotte; he signed BPW questionnaire for ERA last Fall but indicated he had some questions; his main concern is over the draft issue.

TOM RHODES; from Wilmington; he signed BPW pledge to vote for ERA last Fall; he now says he is undecided.

3. REQUEST: A call, this morning if possible, to Governor James (Jim) Holshouser asking him to work to get these two votes (COBB and RHODES). Holshouser is publicly for ERA but he has not done much to push it. (His wife is removed to be opposed.) Points to be made with Holshouser:

- a. If he could bring Cobb and Rhodes around it would mean a GOP majority for ERA.
- b. Indicating to Cobb and Rhodes that both Holshouser and Mrs. Ford are aware of their earlier pledges of support to BPW would probably be of significant influence.
- c. The issue is increasingly the top priority with women. For example, all of the women House Members (15) in North Carolina will be voting for ERA.
- d. Please stress that action today before the vote is required.

4. After the call, Sheila, would you call Nancy Drum at 919-833-3641 and tell her how it went. She is the N. C. coordinator -- and very solid. If she is not there, please have them ask her to call you. She knows fully about this request, but she is the only one.

April 15, 1975

TO: Sheila Weidenfeld

FROM: Doug Bailey John Deardourff

## SUBJECT: An ERA Illinois call by Sheila Weidenfeld.

1. Mrs. Ford called Bud Washburn (the GOP House Leader in Illinois) last month to urge him to support a rules change so that it would take 89 votes to pass ERA instead of 107. He said he would. Mrs. Ford then sent him a letter reminding him of the pledge.

2. The House Rules Committee meets Wednesday morning on this subject. We believe it will vote out a bill to change the rules from 107 to 89. Washburn is being counted on to vote for 89.

3. <u>REQUEST</u>: Can you, Sheila, call Bud Washburn today and ask him how things are going -- and what he thinks the Rules Committee will do on Wednesday. (The "reminder" will be helpful to him.)

- 4. Things you should know before the call:
  - a. The Illinois House Judiciary Committee holds its ERA hearings on Wednesday also. It should be voted out by a wide margin.
  - b. Washburn knows that the ERA sponsors know of Mrs. Ford's call to him, although he has not talked about it -- nor has it gotten any public attention. He obviously prefers to keep it quiet.
  - c. If the House Rules Committee recommends "89", it still will take a floor vote to change the rules, but we think it's possible.
  - d. It is our assessment that if the House changes its rules away from a 3/5 majority, the Senate may well do the same.
  - e. Last Wednesday there was an enormous (4000 people) rally for ERA in Springfield. It was very impressive.
- 5. Telephone numbers for Representative Washburn:

Home: 815-942-5277 Office: 217-782-4014



**TELEGRAM** 

 FULL RATE OR

 STRAIGHT TELEGRAM

 DAY LETTER

 NIGHT LETTER

The Mhite House Mashington

April 16, 1975

RUSH

RUSH

Thank you for voting for ERA on Tuesday. I feel confident the women of North Carolina feel as much admiration for you as I do. Betty Ford Honorable Caroline Mathis Member of the House of Representatives of North Carolina Room 1104 North Carolina State Legislative Building Raleigh, North Carolina 27201 Honorable LeRoy T. Spoon Member of the House of Representatives of North Carolina Room 1103 North Carolina State Legislative Building Raleigh, North Carolina 27201 Honorable Marylin Bissell Member of the House of Representatives of North Carolina Room 1105 North Carolina State Legislative Building Raleigh, North Carolina 27201

ncc

ne

APPROVED FOR DISPATCH

# SUN-SENTINEL

101 NORTH NEW RIVER DRIVE EAST.FORT LAUDERDALE.FLORIDA 33302.

4/29/75

Dear Shelia,

It was good talking to you the other day.

Enclosed you'll find the Miami Herald you wanted plus the editorial they ran the day after ERA was voted down.

Also enclosed is the article which ran in my paper. Believe me, it bears no relation to what I wrote, in fact they only used about 4 graphs of what I did. Were it not for the fact that this week the paper laid off eight people for economy reasons, I'd be tempted to throw an IBM electric typewriter at someone! (An editor, of course.)

You have an open invitation to drop in should you be down in this area and if there's ever anything I can do for you, let me know. Regards from one law firm child to another.

Sincerely,

rom Lubart

om Lubart

ERA.

## Hay 26, 1975

Dear Tom:

Thanks so much for sending me the Florida stories on the Florida ERA vote and Mrs. Ford's involvement. I appreciate getting them.

It was good talking to you. I'll give you a call next time I get to Florida. In the meantime, don't hesitate to call me if there's any way I can ever be helpful.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mr. Tom Lubart SUN-SENTINEL 101 Morth New River Drive East Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33302

## May 26, 1975

Dear Tom:

Thanks so much for sending me the Florida stories on The Florida ERA vote and Mrs. Ford's involvement. I appreciate getting them.

It was good talking to you. I'll give you a call next time I get to Florida. In the meantime, don't hesitate to call me if there's any way I can ever be helpful.

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Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mr. Tom Lubart SUN-SEMTINEL 101 North New River Drive East Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33302



File-ERA

## SUN-SENTINEL

IOI NORTH NEW RIVER DRIVE EAST.FORT LAUDERDALE.FLORIDA 33302

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Regards from one law firm child to another.

Sincerely,

fom Lubart

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C/5.2

PRESIDENT GERALD R FORD WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 20500

THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION OF OKLAHOMA PASSED A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, THEY ALSO PASSED A RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE FAMILY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSTAIN FROM USING THEIR SPOUSES' OFFICE IN AN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATION, MY FRIENDS AND I RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO REQUEST YOUR FAMILY TO HEED THI OVERWHELMING SENTIMENT OF THE OKLAHOMA REPUBLICAN PARTY,

1

MRS ARTHUR MADDOX 2544 EAST 18 ST TULSA OK 74104

21:45 EST

to 100

MGMWSHT HSB

THE WHITE HOUSE

September 19, 1975 To Sheila Weidenfeld From Gwen Anderson

per our conversation

Sheile

Sopre

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

January 23, 1976

## MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

BOBBIE GREENE KILBERG

I would like to recommend that the President's speech in Williamsburg on January 31 include a statement on his support for ratification of the equal rights amendment. Virginia is one of only two states where the amendment has never been put to a vote on either the House or the Senate floor and what action the State Legislature will or will not take this session is the focus of much attention throughout the country. The President will be subject to substantial criticism from women's organizations if he does not mention the ERA in his address.

cc: Phil Buchen

bc: Susan Porter

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

BOBBIE GREENE KILBERG

Barr

SUBJECT:

ERA statement in President's speech at Williamsburg

As a follow-up to my memorandum of earlier this week, I want to make two additional points in support of the President making a pro-equal rights statement in his speech at Williamsburg:

- 1. It is my understanding that the President spoke in support of the ERA in Illinois and North Carolina, two states which, like Virginia, have not ratified the amendment;
- 2. In response to any allegations that the President is an outsider interfering with a state ratification process, the President can point out in a graceful manner that he and Mrs. Ford feel a special affection and allegiance for two states -- Michigan, their home state, and Virginia, the state where they lived for many years when he served in Congress. Thus, the President is a concerned "constituent" of Virginia and not an outsider.

cc: Philip W. Puchen cc: Russ Rourke

bc: Sheila Weidenfeld  $\nu$ 

-MEMORANDUM OF CALL 10: YOU WERE CALLED BY-VOU WERE VISITED BY-OF (Organization) na 0 Man ANN Dushin PLEASE CALL -PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT MESSAGE mentioned GE Wal 3 RECEIVED BY DATE TIME N STANDARD FORM 63 REVISED AUGUST 1967 GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6 GPO : 1000-048-16-00341-1 383-889 63-108

## April 2, 1976

Dear Mrs. Deatherage:

Thank you for your recent letter to Mrs. Ford regarding the Oklahoma ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Mrs. Ford is very sorry that her extraordinarily hectic schedule and the frequent traveling she will be doing would not make it possible for her to sign the certificates as you requested. She has asked me to send her wholehearted endorsement for the ratification of the ERA in Oklahoma. Mrs. Ford will continue to be active in the ERA fight, and she will work through ERAmerica to help individual state ratification efforts.

I've enclosed a copy of the message she sent ERAmerica. Best wishes for a successful ratification effort in your state.

Sincerely,

Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Cleta Deatherage Chairperson Oklahoma Coalition for Equal Rights 400 N. W. 23rd Street Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

Enclosure

PP:mm Central File/EWPress:cron/alpha

no on have not voted: stato Bill Nichol Shirley marsh one woman serata Walter George blain Jules Burbach speaker james dickinson robert clarke John murphy BERALD Thome johnson warren Swigart

THE WHITE HOUSE THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON WASHINGTON Indiana 9 dates where "poss" 5 states : in one house, but other one close South Carolina need to there & go Ist to push - prob before end of feb Mirais Senate by rid-feb. house by late feb any Can pass in Senate - very close en house - sphr won't move out missouri house 2 who Nevada house ok Serate the prot april for vote-Fla

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

1) sense that by knows what

2) sugget for position



THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

North Carolina

. . .

looks very good -by end of feb

looks good \* monday (28-22 senate last whe) ND (521/2 votes)

(San Erwins teleg) Dong Bailey

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON ) not meldling in state ratif of a constit and mt 2) work toget states + fed 3) nigo thrust is that it will change federal laws

bill baroody bob orben milt friednon 1 bob blake

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

16 states have not ratified 3 good South Carol arizona then 5 chancy What is opposit to it why are mormons opposed ND- vote North Dabota \* South Carolina - house in feb Nevada nouse 2000 sen quest Arizona not near senate 2000 Florida eg in april 2000 Florida eg in april Indiana have house \* Delinois \* missouri \*North Carolina

smote : nothing paheduled (sponsor ) determines) house : can bring to vote, but bad sker now So: nothing pending now NC opponent hearing past; 19Th is San Mins peled report out 25th ploor vote fallowing wh, schole whe afte no R to be found for it-IND prot not be serate vote in 75 ( assur ends in app) passed in House; 34 per, must mo have 18 (102 short today only 2 of 11 R support (US 14 demo) 1300 14 def nis popportable: John Regar of

-Fla favor by 6-7 votes in House blose 20-20 or 21-19 ag in Senti Deg convents ap 8-all order by ap 20 - ask of bailes & deard can come see clare B cuce



Florida recept - preceding luncheon Devent - officers of fed of repub womens clubs + legislators in area either not com or staten pres era coalit eyec director state coordinator for era coal mary ann Sherman gainesville (904) 378 8373 (26th) host for luncheon (26th) chan for local coalit officers of womens groups abounce off

## SUBJECT: ERA Calls in Florida

The Florida House passed the ERA resolution, 61-58, last Thursday night. Passage in the Senate will be even tougher. There may be some difficulty in getting the resolution out of the Senate Rules Committee and the vote on the Senate Floor will be extremely close. (With a total of 40 Senators, the current "headcount" is 15 "YES" votes, 17 "NO" votes and eight Senators in various degrees of indecision. In a previous year, ERA lost 21-19 in the Senate.)

Currently, only two of the twelve Republican Senators are counted as YES votes.

Points to be made to each one:

1. An expression of how strongly Mrs. Ford feels personally about ERA.

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- 2. A clear indication that she is not calling to tell them how to vote, or even to ask how they may vote, but rather to indicate her deep personal commitment.
- 3. An indication, if it fits in the conversation, that the National Republican platforms of both 1968 and 1972, adopted at Miami Beach support ERA, and that Republican support cuts across the political spectrum, i.e., plenty of strong conservatives support ERA -- Governor Reagan, Senator Thurmond, Senator Tower, etc.

349 Ridgewood Glen Ellyn, Il 60137

Mrs. Betty Ford The White House Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Ford,

Drain?

Your efforts on behalf of ERA are essential in Illinois. There will be a vote in the Senate March 4th, and two Senators who possibly could be persuaded to change their vote are: John A. Grahm (R) 2nd District

715 S. Cook Barrington, Il 62706

James Phillip (R) 40th District 488 E. Crescent Elmhurst, Il 60126

The Republican Women's Clubs who helped these men with their campaigns are influencing their negative stance.

Your efforts are appreciated, and any thing more you can do will be a valuable contribution to ERA.

> Thank you, Susan Newhart

349 Ridgewood Glen Ellyn, Il 60137





Mrs. Betty Ford The White House Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20500