



**Resolution in support of Ratification by Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment  
to the United States Constitution**

**Whereas**, Fairfax County Council Parent Teacher Association's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children; and

**Whereas**, for more than 100 years the PTA has worked to better the lives of every child in education, health and safety; and

**Whereas**, with 175 local chapters representing more than 40,000 members in Fairfax County, FCCPTA is the largest voice for children and families and their welfare as it relates to education; and

**Whereas**, equity and fairness directly impact parents' and families' abilities to provide stable and healthy home lives; and

**Whereas**, the United States Constitution does not explicitly guarantee equal rights and equal protection 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**Whereas**, state laws are not uniform and federal laws are not comprehensive, and these laws can be repealed or reduced; and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;

**Whereas**, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) 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 Amendment would help ensure women and men have the same constitutional protections; and

**Whereas**, the ERA was passed by Congress in 1972, and has been ratified by 37 states, the most recent being Nevada in 2017 and Illinois in 2018; and

**Whereas**, the time limit for the ERA appears only in the preamble; and

**Whereas**, 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

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the Fairfax County Council PTA Executive Board supports the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Fairfax County Council PTA Executive Board urges the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to ratify the ERA to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972, during the 2019 legislative session.

Signed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Miscavage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Jane Miscavage  
President