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2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HCR 3032

## 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3032

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 9, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3269

Committee Clerk Signature

*Morgan Penick*

Minutes:

**Rep. Guleson:** I bring this forward today because of this group of women, The North Dakota Women's Network. They are going to be holding this event on March 9 I believe, to recognize the passage of the ERA ratification in ND and to acknowledge the role of women, and to also acknowledge the fact that the ERA has not been ratified by congress. There have been two efforts in the State of ND. The first attempt to ratify failed in the 1973 session. It was passed through the senate but failed in the house. In 1975 it came back. North Dakota has passed it but not all states have. They have extended the original date in congress to try to make sure that they can pass it and move it forward. Part of this resolution is just to reaffirm the fact that it is important and to get it moved ahead in congress. More importantly we want to acknowledge the effort and raise awareness of it. We just want to move this resolution to get it a little higher prevalence in our state.

**Renee Stromme:** I just spent all last night reading the testimony from 1975 that was presented on the equal rights amendments passage. The state of it at this point hasn't been ratified nationally. Alabama is very close to ratification. There is an issue there as to why this resolution would really make a difference. Nationally, they keep extending the date. When congress gives themselves a raise it doesn't go into effect until after they are reelected. They

had to return and get more states to ratify that, and they did get that ratified and it was made a constitutional amendment. There is lots of talk that Illinois, Missouri, and Alabama may well ratify it in the next year. The discussion about the ERA has changed drastically since 1975. It would just put into our constitution that it could not discriminate on sex, so we won't go backwards on voting rights, etc. I have very little for you but I do have brochures for the Women's Network. Our panel will consist of women and men who are active in this for our March 9 event.

**Rep. Karls:** I'm just curious as to where this bill was buried?

**Rep. Haas:** It was buried in my files and it just surfaced today?

**Rep. Amerman:** Why hasn't this been ratified since 1975?

**Renee Stromme:** I'm not sure. I think it has just been overlooked. We just need to reinvigorate it so people are aware that we need to constitutionally guarantee that we will not discriminate.

**Rep. Meier:** What does the Women's Network all do, such as involvement?

**Renee Stromme:** We are a new organization. We have been up and running since about April of last year. The goal is to improve the lives of women's lives and to get more women involved with decision making processes, such as voting, school boards, etc. We think about the issues women need to address. There was a report released in 2004 that said women do not rate well in a number of areas. We are a membership group, basically we have a lot of members from across the state.

**Rep. Meier:** How many members are involved?

**Renee Stromme:** we have 92, but we just started working on this last July. The interest is great Women want to unite with one another.

**Rep. Potter:** I'm curious as to how many states have not, and if not very many, which ones they are.

**Renee Stromme:** There needs to be 38 to ratify this amendment. There are 35. We were the 34<sup>th</sup>. We were the only ones to ratify in 1975, followed by Indiana. There hasn't been a lot of effort in many states.

**Rep. Weiler:** Do you charge a fee for the 92 members?

**Renee Stromme:** We do have a membership fee that is pretty flexible. We have a student membership of \$10, and a regular at \$30. For the most part we rely on funding.

**Rep. Haas:** Are there any other questions for Renee? Thank you. We will close the hearing on HCR 3032.

## 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HCR 3032

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 9, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3270

Committee Clerk Signature

*Morgan Rennie*

Minutes:

**Rep. Meier:** I move a do pass

**Rep. Weiler:** I second that.

**Rep. Haas:** Is there any further discussion? If not we will take a roll call vote on HCR 3032.

The do pass motion on HCR 3032 passes with a vote of 11-1-1. Is there a volunteer to take this to the floor?

**Rep. Meier:** I will

Date: 2-8-07  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number HCR 3032

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Rep. Meier Seconded By Rep. Weiler

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Rep. Bette Grande VC	X		Rep. Louise Potter	X	
Rep. Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Jasper Schneider		
Rep. Stacey Dahl	X		Rep. Lisa Wolf	X	
Rep. Glen Froseth	X				
Rep. Karen Karls		X			
Rep. Jim Kasper	X				
Rep. Lisa Meier	X				
Rep. Dave Weiler	X				

Total (Yes) 11 No 1

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Meier

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*Consent Calendar*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3032: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (11 YEAS,  
1 NAY, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3032 was placed on the Tenth order on  
the calendar.

2007 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HCR 3032

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 3032

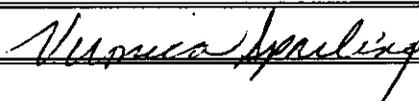
Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/08/07

Recorder Job Number: 4678

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

All members of the committee were present.

Senator Dever, Chairman, opened the hearing on HCR 3032.

Representative Pam Guleson from District 26 introduced the resolution. Since our legislative body ratified the Equal Rights Amendment on February 11, 1975 there has only been one more state that has ratified it. This brings the total to 35 and 38 states need to ratify it so it can become a constitutional amendment. Many people are under the impression that it has already become a constitutional amendment but that is not the case. There is an event tomorrow night in conjunction with the North Dakota Equal Rights Amendment Recognition Day. She feels it is time to recommit to the ratification of the ERA in all states and final passage in Congress so it can become the 28<sup>th</sup> amendment. She referred to the Status of Women in North Dakota Workplace Report that was put out by the Institute for Women's Policy Research. One area that is not good in our state is women's earnings and especially among minority women. Our state is 50<sup>th</sup> out of 51 state plus District of Columbia in that area. Women's health and childcare issues are still concerns.

Senator Lee was involved with a group that worked hard for the passage of the bill in 1975.

She related some of her memories from that time period. She feels this was and is important to women. She gave some history of some specific reasons it was important.

Representative Gulleson gave an example of how this affects farm families even today. Even though her mother had worked right alongside her father on their dairy farm, she would only receive half of what her husband received in retirement benefits or disability had any of those things come up. She only received the full amount on Medicare once her husband had passed away.

Senator Lee cited examples of inequities toward women she knew of during that period of time.

Senator Oehlke asked if it would be possible to send this resolution to the President of the United States too.

Senator Dever asked if the body of law that exists today has addressed most of the concerns that are included in the Equal Rights Amendment probably in part because the ERA was out there.

Representative Gulleson agreed with that. It did a lot to raise the awareness.

Senator Dever asked Representative Gulleson if she is aware of any laws that would become unconstitutional if this passed.

Representative Gulleson said she is not aware of any. She said the marketplace has to catch up.

Representative Kathy Hawken from District 46 spoke in support of the resolution. She said even discussion on the topic of equal rights raises awareness and has changed lives for the better.

Senator Horne asked why other states have not ratified it.

Senator Dever mentioned that there is a 7 year limit and the time ran out.

Renee Stromme with the North Dakota Women's Network spoke about an event to be held tomorrow evening. See attachment # 1. This month is Women's History Month. She spoke of some of the people who were instrumental in fighting to get women equal rights.

Connie Hildebrand with the League of Women Voters for North Dakota and the American Association of University Women of North Dakota urged support of the resolution.

Support: -

Opposition: -

Neutral: -

Chairman Dever closed the hearing on HCR 3032.

There was discussion about the difficulty of women in the past when they couldn't use credit cards and when they couldn't sign to buy a car. The Equal Credit Act of 1976 revolutionized credit and the purchase of homes. Before that time the income of the woman could not be considered when determining if the income was adequate to support a mortgage payment. The only way they would include her income was if she was not and had no intention of becoming pregnant. The Equal Credit Act encouraged the housing boom of the 70's.

Senator Dever said there may have been some objection to the amendment back in the 70's but the objections to it now may be just because people just don't see it as necessary.

A do pass motion was made by Senator Nelson.

The motion was seconded by Senator Lee.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0

Carrier: Nelson

Date : 3-8-07  
Roll Call Vote # : 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3032

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken do pass

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Lee

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dick Dever - Chairman	✓		Senator Robert Horne	✓	
Senator Dave Oehlke - VC	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais	✓	
Senator Judy Lee	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Nelson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
March 8, 2007 12:20 p.m.

**Module No: SR-44-4724**  
**Carrier: Nelson**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3032: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
HCR 3032 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HCR 3032

# "Equal Rights for Women in North Dakota? Yes!"

Friday, March 9, 2007

7 p.m.

Trinity Community Center  
3rd St & Ave A, Bismarck

Free and Open to the Public

*Attach #1*

This event highlights the work of many great people who worked for ratification of the **Equal Rights Amendment** in North Dakota — and got it. What stories they can tell!

We invite you to come and learn about this exhilarating history. The program will serve as an inspirational event and a **reunion** for all who were involved back in 1975. So please join us. Additionally, to pass the torch of leadership on to a new generation, bring along a young person who is sure to be empowered by this event.

## Opening Remarks:

Wayne Stenehjem, ND Attorney General, has supported the ERA since the mid-1970s as a legislator.

## Panel members:

Lois Altenburg, A champion of women's rights, now serves as state president for the League of Women Voters.

Donna Chalimonczyk directed the committee that led to ratification of the ERA in ND.

Brian Palecek lobbied for the ERA and served on the Commission on the Status of Women.

Katherine Satrom's efforts for women's rights led her to the Carter White House in the 1970s.

Jane Skjei worked on the efforts to ratify the ERA as the state leader of NOW.

## Closing Remarks:

Kristin Hedger, an up-and-coming voice, calls on young women to engage in decision-making.