



## **TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE**

### **SJ001 - Affirming the Federal Equal Rights Amendment**

**POSITION: Favorable**

**BY: Linda Kohn, President**

**Date: February 21, 2024**

Our national organization, the League of Women Voters of the United States, has supported and pushed for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) since it was first passed by Congress in 1972. In January of 2020, Virginia became the 38th and final state needed to ratify the ERA. As the ERA has met all requirements to be added to the US Constitution, the League is pushing for Congress to officially recognize it as the 28th Amendment.

More than 100 years after some women gained the right to vote, women continue to battle systematic discrimination in the form of unequal pay, workplace harassment, pregnancy discrimination, domestic violence, limited access to comprehensive health care, and more.

We must address the root cause of inequality by amending our Constitution. The ERA will elevate the standards by which the courts scrutinize sex-based discrimination, and it will pave the way for further legislative progress towards sex and gender equality.

**We urge a favorable report on SJ001.**