



**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**Bill Number:** SJ 1

**Title:** Affirming the Federal Equal Rights Amendment

**Hearing Date:** February 21, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *Senate Joint Resolution 1 - Affirming the Federal Equal Rights Amendment*. This Senate Joint Resolution calls upon the Administration of President Biden to publish the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The ERA is three sentences long:

Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

ACNM supports any issue that is important for mother and child welfare; working to stand up for human dignity and bodily autonomy as basic human rights that should be protected and respected in all ways. Since 1978, the organization has supported the ERA, and we stay firm in our conviction. Maryland ratified the ERA in May 1972 and adopted the Maryland Equal Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution that same year. It is time for the federal government to do the same.

We strongly urge a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.