At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, held in the Board Auditorium of the Government Center at Fairfax, Virginia on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RATIFICATION BY VIRGINIA OF THE
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT
TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

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WHEREAS, state laws are not uniform and Federal laws are not comprehensive, and these laws can be repealed or reduced; and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

WHEREAS, Fairfax County enforces principles of fair treatment of its employment applicants and employees without discrimination on the basis of sex, and prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors supports the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors urges the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, during the 2019 legislative session, to ratify the ERA to the U.S. Constitution, as proposed by Congress on March 22, 1972.

Given under my hand this 25th day of September 2018.

Catherine A. Chianese
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors