



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Advocates ready for Senate Floor Vote, 20,000+ petition, ally announces Super PAC**

A day after the Virginia Senate Privileges & Elections Committee (P & E) chaired by Senator Jill Vogel (R - 27) **passed resolution [SJ 284](#)** by Chief Co-Patrons **Senator Glen Sturtevant (R - 10)** and **Senator Richard Saslow (D - 35)** to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), positioning Virginia to be the final state needed to add women to the U. S. Constitution. The full Senate must still vote on the resolution on the Senate floor before passing over to the House for consideration. The vote comes on the heels of a state-wide push to educate Virginians on the lack of gender protection in the Constitution and a new [Wason Poll](#) that showed the measure has 81% support across the state, more than tax cuts and voter redistricting.

After witnessing the vote in packed halls and overflow viewing rooms, hundreds of supporters crossed the street to attend a Party4Parity hosted by VARatifyERA. Volunteers Beth Fuchs and Katherine Jordan read two pages of [statewide localities and organizations](#) urging the General Assembly to ratify the ERA in Virginia with enthusiastic cheers erupting for American Bar Association, Virginia Education Alliance, NAACP of Virginia, Charlottesville, Shenandoah County and Fredericksburg. Lead sponsors for the campaign's bus tour then took the stage with Equal Means Equal founder Kamala Lopez announcing the formation of the **Constitutional Equality Super PAC** (Political Action Committee) to aid in the ratification, adoption, and implementation of the ERA by supporting pro-ERA candidates in Virginia and other actions. Kate Kelly, a lawyer with Equality Now, noted the irony that all post WWII Constitutions world-wide include gender equality already, yet the US is a global outlier because it does not. Campaign organizer Kati Hornung capped the event with an announcement that **petition signatures have exceeded the 20,000 goal** and a reminder that the work continues.

Complete list of Party4Parity elected attendees: Attorney General Mark Herring and Senators Jennifer McClellan (D - 9) and George Barker (D - 39). House Minority Leader Eileen Filler-Corn (D - 41) and House bill Chief Patron Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2 ), Delegate Kathleen Murphy (D - 34), Delegate Alfonso Lopez (D - 49), Delegate Marcus Simon (D - 53), Delegate Ken Plum (D - 36), Delegate Kaye Kory (D - 38), Delegate Rip Sullivan (D - 48), Delegate Dawn Adams (D - 68th), Delegate Elizabeth Guzmán (D - 31), and Delegate Cheryl Turpin (D - 85th).

BACKGROUND ON SUPPORT: Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), has the support of 81% of Virginians according to a December 5th Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University [poll](#). Constitutional scholars and legal professionals across the country assert that Virginia has the power to ratify the amendment, and should do so. Justices Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg both noted that gender is not protected in the Constitution as does the 400,000 member American Bar Association (ABA) which sent letters to house and senate leadership on Jan. 2 [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring submitted a [formal opinion](#) last year underscoring the Commonwealth's ability to ratify, noting the recent ratifications of Nevada (March 2017) and Illinois (May 2018).

For more information on the Equal Rights Amendment and Virginia's campaign, visit [www.VARatifyERA.org](http://www.VARatifyERA.org).

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