Congress of the United States  
Office of the Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 21, 1971

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Although floor consideration on H. J. Res. 208, the proposed constitutional amendment guaranteeing "equal rights for men and women," has been postponed for a few days, it will be before the House in the very near future.

I have repeatedly been asked for the views of your Administration on this question and I would be very appreciative of an authoritative statement from you before the debate begins.

Warm personal regards,

Gerald R. Ford, M. C.

GRF:rn
Dear Gerry:

You have asked my position with respect to the Equal Rights Amendment, soon to be considered by the House.

As you remember, as a Senator in 1951 I co-sponsored a Resolution proposing the Amendment; in 1968 I reaffirmed my support for it as a candidate for the Presidency.

Throughout twenty years I have not altered my belief that equal rights for women warrant a Constitutional guarantee - and I therefore support the enactment of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Sincerely,

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Pending Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Item veto
Change the dates of Congressional meetings
Provide for the emergency functioning of Congress
Compel testimony from criminal defendants (amending the 5th Amendment)
Declaring an unalienable right to a good environment
Protect references to God (on coins, pledges, etc.)
Abolish the income tax
Popular election of judges
Periodic reconfirmation of Judges
Setting up specific qualifications for judicial appointments
Change the qualification for members of Congress
Provide a 4-year term for House Members
Reduce the Senate term to 4 years
Authorize prayers in public buildings
National preferential Presidential primary
Add "So help me God" to the Presidential oath
Denying employment to subversives in public schools
Apportionment of State legislatures
To prevent "interference" with the States
Requiring 2/3 vote of the Supreme Court to invalidate State or Federal laws
Mandatory Supreme Court requirement age
Setting qualifications for Supreme Court nominees
Providing that the Chief Justice shall report to Congress annually
Require the consent of the House to Treaties and Executive Agreements
Require the consent of Congress to Executive Agreements
Standards for welfare payments

Proposed Amendments with Significant Support

Equal Rights
Busing
School Prayer
Limiting the tenure of federal judges
Voting representation for D.C.
Direct election of the President
Modifying the Electoral College