

January 18, 2024

Ohio News concerning women:

The House Bill 161 to eliminate spousal exceptions for certain offenses has passed and is now in the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee. PLEASE write to those Senators on the Judiciary Committee to get this to the Senate floor for a vote and on to the Governor to become law!

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb161>

ERA

As State President Stephanie Bridwell stated in her recent email, the federal government seems to be doing a lot of finger pointing and buck passing regarding the ERA.

Nicole Bates <nvbates@shatteringglass.org>

Hello all. Happy New Year.

Attached is the response from Jen Klein at the Gender Policy Council to our letter to President Biden. The date of this document is unclear, as is where she originally sent it. We only learned (inadvertently) of its existence yesterday.

This is a rather unfortunate and disingenuous response from the President. The President yet again calls on Congress to act, referencing the January 22, 2022 OLC opinion from his Department of Justice, stating Congress has the authority to act at this time to recognize the Equal Rights Amendment.

As a reminder, eight months after the OLC opinion was issued, the Biden Administration said in court, at oral argument in *Illinois v. Ferriero*, that Congress has no such authority. This was in direct response to a question from Judge Wilkens of the US DC Circuit Court of Appeals. You may listen to this exchange here (the exchange begins at 1:41:30). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsnAMkOJLOQ>

You may also read the quote, which is contained in [S.Res. 107](#), a resolution introduced last year that claims the ERA is invalid due to the time limit contained in the in the preamble and five states' attempted rescissions of ratifications. To bolster the argument against the ERA, SRes107, which was introduced by Senator Hyde-Smith and co-sponsored Senators Lankford, Cruz, Cotton, Mullin, Vance, Cassidy, Ricketts, Rubio, Boozman, Kennedy, Lee, Risch, Marshall, Braun, Graham, Barrasso, Moran, Hawley, Budd, and Wicker, provides:

Whereas in oral argument before the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in the *Virginia v. Ferriero* case on September 28, 2022, Judge Robert Wilkins of that Court asked Deputy Assistant Attorney General Sarah Harrington, 'Why shouldn't the Archivist just certify and publish [the Equal Rights Amendment] and let Congress decide whether the deadline should be enforced ...?', and Ms. Harrington answered, 'The Constitution doesn't contemplate any role for Congress at the back end. Congress proposes the amendment, it goes out into the world, and the States do what they're going to do.'

When I learned of the response, I requested a copy from Jen Klein as well as an opportunity to discuss the same.

I will continue to keep you posted. In the interim, please reach out if you would like to discuss. Thank you again for your partnership.

Best,

Nicole

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Economic Equality: *You may have noticed there are a lot of women in healthcare but not a lot of CEO's. In fact, 70% of the workers worldwide are women while they hold only 25% of the leadership positions. This article from NPR explains it all.*

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2023/03/24/1163658781/women-were-already-unequal-in-the-world-of-global-health-the-pandemic-made-it-wo>

Finance: *Women have long understood they have a lot more responsibilities both at work and at home than their male counterparts. This article explores some of the discrepancies that need to be addressed.*

<https://time.com/6249410/secret-tax-women-time/>

Victim Rights: *Often we think of sexual exploitation or crime when we think of victims. This article explains how insidious slavery and exploitation is in our modern economy.*

https://www.voices4freedom.org/what-is-modern-day-slavery/?qclid=Cj0KCQiAtaOtBhCwARIsAN_x-3JzqKaff5dJ0n5Ni1YsDRSZFW0zMswYwSeTAC3cyKPDAaPW3M1l-0aArCPEALw_wcB

Health: *This last article is near and dear to me. I vowed when I retired that I would make sure my mother would come to Ohio for Christmas and get her to her condo in Florida. This requires two plane trips (she wants her car at all times!) Each time I return on the plane from Florida, I get sick! Maybe wearing a mask isn't such a bad idea!*

<https://www.aarp.org/travel/travel-tips/safety/info-2019/avoid-airplane-germs.html>

Submitted by Pat Talbot