



Key Points:

- Alice Paul, one of the leaders of the women's suffrage movement, believed that freedom from legal sex discrimination required an Equal Rights Amendment. In 1923, the ERA was first introduced.
- The amendment was introduced in every session of Congress until it passed in a reworded form in 1972.
- In the 1960s, women organized to demand their rights, including the ERA.
- The Equal Rights Amendment passed both houses of Congress on March 22, 1972 and was sent to the states for ratification. Congress placed a seven-year deadline on the ratification process, however the amendment was not ratified.
- Anti-ERA organizers claimed that the ERA would deny a woman's right to be supported by her husband, privacy rights would be overturned and women would be sent into combat.
- The Equal Rights Amendment continues to be pursued by women's groups and members of Congress.