

December 18th, 2018

Dear Fellow UU Congregations and Fellowships,

The 2019 Virginia General Assembly will be convening on January 8th for a 45 day session proposing and voting on laws on behalf of the citizens of Virginia. In the spirit of our shared UU values, namely the inherent worth and dignity of every person, one of the issues that will be brought up to both the House of Delegates and the State Senate will be the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**. Currently 37 States have ratified this amendment for its inclusion in the US Constitution. 38 states are needed for full ratification. Virginia could be the 38th and final state to ratify this amendment. For more information see VARatifyERA.org.

The amendment is simple; **“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex”**. This is a bipartisan issue, and will benefit everyone.

A vote by the Virginian General Assembly for ratification of this amendment would guarantee the same rights afforded to both sexes that are already guaranteed in the constitution based race, national origin or religion. Presently discrimination based on sex is “not” prohibited.

We are writing to you to ask your congregants to send an email, letter or call their House of Delegate Representative as well as their State Senator expressing their support for the **Equal Rights Amendment**.

A Simple email stating that you are in support of the amendment, **“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex”**

Here is the link to find out who is your representative to the House of Delegates as well as your State Senator. <https://www.virginia.gov/services/whos-my-legislator/>.

From now through January 2, write to or call your elected representatives, as well as House and Senate leadership, at their district office addresses.

After January 2, emails and calls should be sent to the Richmond address, which is the same for all elected officials (*900 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219*).

You will need to include your name and address for each call made or email you write. Be Respectful in your contact with your legislators.

In advance, thank you for your support for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Bob McCarthy
Member Advocacy Committee
UUSJ at UUCF

Marie Ann Leyko
Member UUCF since 1997