

CONCERNED  
**WOMEN** *for* **AMERICA**  
OF MAINE

**Statement by  
Penny Morrell, State Director  
Concerned Women for America of Maine**

**To Members of the Judiciary Committee**

**Regarding L.D. 433,  
"RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Explicitly  
Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual"**

**March 7, 2019**

Senator Carpenter, Rep. Bailey, and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I'm Penny Morrell, State Director of Concerned Women for America (CWA) of Maine.

CWA of Maine opposes L.D. 433, a "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Explicitly Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual."

Forty years ago, Concerned Women for America (CWA) formed as an organization and became the leading conservative voice for women across America. The battle at that time is the same battle raging in Maine today: a fight to pass an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). In the case of Maine, it is the push to add the ERA to Maine's Constitution. CWA opposed the ERA then, and we do so today.

I ask you a very simple question, "What present law or laws in Maine are barring equality for women?" Let me answer that for you with one simple word – none. **The women of Maine do not need the ERA to flourish.** Penny Nance, President of Concerned Women for America, recently made this statement, "Women today are in a golden era. Never before have we had the opportunities and liberty to pursue happiness that we currently enjoy."

**The 14th Amendment to the Constitution and multiple federal and state statutes guarantee women all the rights inherent to American citizens – equal employment, equal pay, education, credit eligibility, housing, public accommodations, etc. – and women are thriving and succeeding as in no other time in history. They have done this without the assistance of ERA.**

A state ERA would almost certainly cement the rights to **taxpayer-funded abortion access.** Members of Big Abortion (including the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League and Planned Parenthood) have long argued in court filings that state-level ERAs guarantee a right to abort children with public funding, and state supreme courts in Connecticut and New Mexico have agreed with this interpretation.

**A state ERA would empower courts, not women. Because the language is so vague, courts would be called upon to interpret its application to innumerable situations such as the meaning of "sex." This makes this amendment very dangerous because it removes all differences — social, biological and sexual — between males and females while granting enormous flexibility to increasingly activist judges to interpret the amendment as they deem appropriate.**

**Unlike in the 1970s, the ERA would be used to impose the most radical consequences of the "gender revolution," which allows men to declare themselves women and vice versa. Warnings from the 1970s that the ERA would threaten privacy and safety protections for women and girls in restrooms, locker rooms, etc., were dismissed as alarmist nonsense. Under the ERA, the privacy, safety and rights of women would be compromised in gender neutral policies. Already we are seeing these threats as special protections based on gender identity supersede the safety, privacy and rights of women.**

**Because of these reasons, we respectfully ask that this Judiciary Committee vote L.D. 433 "ought not to pass." Thank you.**