

Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment (also known as the Women's Equality Amendment). This historic amendment was intended to affirm in our United States Constitution fundamental equality based on sex in all areas of society.

In 1972, Congress passed the ERA with a measure that it had to be ratified by the necessary number of states (38) within 7 years. Though this deadline was extended, it was only for 10 short years. With this narrow time limit, the ERA was unfortunately just three states shy of full ratification when the deadline passed in 1982. Other constitutional amendments were given much wider deadlines for ratification. One example is the 27th amendment, concerning Congressional pay raises, which was accepted after a 203 year ratification period.

This Congress I intend to finally add the word "women" to the constitution. It is time for our nation to understand the necessity of equality for women based on the way it has been deprived of them. While we have made cracks in the glass ceiling many times before, we have yet to shatter it. I believe that this amendment provides that recognition to women without taking equality rights away from others.

Over the past several decades, legislative efforts have increased women's rights—but these strides toward achieving equality are not irreversible. Without the ERA, women have often been denied the ability to seek justice when they have experienced discrimination. Though certain court decisions, such as the Supreme Court decision in the Virginia Military Institute case (*Virginia v. United States*), helped to clarify that gender cannot be used to keep women from achieving social, legal and economic gains, important decisions like this can also be overturned. In addition, laws can still perpetuate gender classifications that keep women from achieving their full potential. Passage of the ERA would provide a Constitutional affirmation of the Supreme Court decision.

Our democracy rests on the principle of "liberty and justice for all." We need the ERA to ensure that this concept applies equally to all.

I am pleased to introduce this bill with ninety-three of my bipartisan colleagues, Representatives CYNTHIA LUMMIS, RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN, JERROLD NADLER, KAREN BASS, JOYCE BEATTY, XAVIER BECERRA, SANFORD BISHOP, TIMOTHY BISHOP, EARL BLUMENAUER, CORRINE BROWN, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, LOIS CAPPS, MICHAEL CAPUANO, TONY CÁRDENAS, KATHY CASTOR, DAVID CICILLINE, YVETTE CLARKE, WM. LACY CLAY, JAMES CLYBURN, STEVE COHEN, JAMES COOPER, JAMES COSTA, JOSEPH COURTNEY, JOSEPH CROWLEY, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, DANIEL DAVIS, SUSAN DAVIS, PETER DEFAZIO, DIANA DEGETTE, CHARLIE DENT, JOHN DINGELL, TAMMY DUCKWORTH, KEITH ELLISON, SAM FARR, CHAKA FATTAH, WILLIAM FOSTER, MARCIA FUDGE, TUSLI GABBARD, JOHN GARAMENDI, ALAN GRAYSON, AL GREEN, RAUL GRIJALVA, MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, LOUIS GUTIÉRREZ, BRIAN HIGGINS, JAMES HIMES, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, STEVE ISRAEL, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, HENRY "HANK" JOHNSON, MARCY KAPTUR, WILLIAM KEATING, JOSEPH KENNEDY, DANIEL KILDEE, BARBARA LEE, SANDER LEVIN, JOHN LEWIS, DAVID LOESBACK, ZOE LOFGREN, STEPHEN LYNCH, BETTY MCCOLLUM, JAMES MCDERMOTT, JAMES MCGOVERN, GRACE

MENG, GWEN MOORE, GRACE NAPOLITANO, WILLIAM PASCARELL, EDWARD PERLMUTTER, CHELLIE PINGREE, MICHAEL QUIGLEY, CHARLES RANGEL, RAUL RUIZ, TIMOTHY RYAN, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, SCOTT DAVIS, TERRI SEWELL, CAROL SHEA-POTTER, BRAD SHERMAN, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, BENNIE THOMPSON, DINA TITUS, PAUL TONKO, NIKI TSONGAS, CHRISTOPHER VAN HOLLEN, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, MAXINE WATERS, MELVIN WATT, HENRY WAXMAN, PETER WELCH, and FEDERICA WILSON. I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join in support.

REUNIFICATION ON THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage renewed efforts to bring about reunification on the island of Cyprus.

In 2004, the inhabitants of the island participated in a referendum put forward by the United Nations under Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The proposal known as the Annan Plan foresaw a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation based on political equality. Unfortunately, it was overwhelmingly rejected by Greek Cypriots in 2004 despite vast support by Turkish Cypriots. Had it been accepted, it would have brought about a resolution to this longstanding separation of the island and contributed to political stability in this region of the world.

In 2008, the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality as defined by relevant Security Council resolutions. These talks proceeded through May 2012, often being guided by former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The framework included a federal government with a single international personality as well as a Turkish Cypriot constituent state and a Greek Cypriot constituent state, both of equal status. Unfortunately, this process has been put on hold for more than a year, as Cyprus has dealt with serious economic crises and political reforms.

The time has come for both sides to resume this process and seek long-term solutions that will bring peace and prosperity to the island. On July 28, Turkish Cypriots successfully completed elections, advancing the cause of democracy on the island. I congratulate the Turkish Cypriots for holding free and fair elections, and wish them well as they endeavor to form a new government. But a broader solution, involving the participation of both sides of the island, is essential to Cyprus's long-term success. It is my strong hope that economic conditions have stabilized sufficiently on the island to allow this process to move forward. The United States should do all it can to support this process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 24, 2013, due to unforeseen illness, I

missed rollcall votes No. 411, on the Pompeo amendment, and No. 412, on the Amash amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the Pompeo amendment, and "nay" on the Amash amendment.

ENERGY CONSUMERS RELIEF ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1582) to protect consumers by prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating as final certain energy-related rules that are estimated to cost more than \$1 billion and will cause significant adverse effects to the economy, with Ms. ROSLEHTINEN in the chair.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this so-called Energy Consumers Relief Act, which would be more accurately titled the Blocking Public Health Protections Act. The best I can say about this bill is that it is going precisely nowhere—and for good reason.

Under this legislation, the Department of Energy would be required to waste increasingly limited resources undertaking costly and time-consuming review of certain "energy-related" EPA rules. The term "energy-related" is not defined, and no time limit is given for completion of DoE's duplicative analysis.

As a result, H.R. 1582 would have the practical—and intended—effect of blocking or indefinitely delaying important public health protections, even if the Secretary of Energy never exercises his authority to overturn the EPA—protections like the Mercury and Air Toxic Standards, which will reduce mercury and other harmful toxins from power plants; or the vehicle tailpipe standards, which, ironically, are already saving consumers money at the pump.

Madam Chair, Americans expect their government to ensure that their air is healthy and their water is clean. H.R. 1582 is poorly drafted, ill-conceived legislation that would take us in precisely the opposite direction.

I urge a "no" vote.

ENCOURAGING PEACE AND REUNIFICATION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 41, a bill encouraging peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula, I rise to encourage my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

This month, hundreds of Korean War veterans will gather in the nation's capital to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. In recognition of their service and for those who continue to serve on the peninsula to this day, we pause to express our appreciation and support.