



Remarks for ERA Billboard Press Conference – Aug. 22, 2019
given by Jane Terwillegar, President, AAUW NC

Thank you! I am Jane Terwillegar, President of AAUW NC.

AAUW, The American Association of University Women –
Empowering women and girls since 1881.

We are one of the organizations sponsoring the ERA billboards
now up in 4 cities of NC. AAUW NC has a local organization in
all of those cities – 18 branches across the state of North
Carolina.

“We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more
perfect union.....”

The first paragraph of the U.S. Constitution – that
paragraph enumerates the reasons why the Constitution is
necessary – Besides providing for the common defense
and establishing domestic tranquility,
the very last reason why those forefathers created our
Constitution was to –
**“secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and
our posterity.”**

Women in this country have been waiting for more than 200 years to enjoy the Blessings of Liberty in every state and every territory of this great nation.

Most assume women already have equal rights – We get to vote, hold office – as governors, senators...maybe President But equal rights? NOT SO!

For instance, I was 38 when the Equal Credit Opportunity Act was passed making it possible for women in every state to finally have their own credit card without a male co-signer – To have their own bank accounts without requiring a male name attached.... Think of that! I remember very well when that national law was passed, freeing women in every corner of this country to manage their own finances.

So, rights have not been equal – and are not equal now. True, legislation does get passed from time to time at the national level to correct things in certain areas of our lives – and that makes things more equal across the states & territories. But this comes piece meal – often hard fought over time – even equal pay is not equal in all the states.

In 1920, 99 years ago, North Carolina had the opportunity to be the final state to pass the 19th Amendment – giving women the right to vote. The NC legislature tabled that legislation that August, and Tennessee voted to ratify the 19th Amendment a few days later. This year, the North Carolina legislature has that same opportunity...To be the final state required to put women into our Constitution –

to pass the Equal. Rights. Amendment.

Only one more state is required to ratify the ERA.

What a great gift North Carolina can give to the men and women of our country! Give us all –

**Men and women of the United States of America....
The. Blessings. Of. Liberty. as promised by that first
paragraph of our Constitution.**