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Senate Joint Memorial 8027

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Franklin, Kauffman, Keiser, Shin, Murray, Pridemore, Spanel, Prentice, McAuliffe, Fairley, Fraser, Brown, Eide, Oemig, McDermott, Regala, Jacobsen, and Kline

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The proposed Equal Rights Amendment provides "equality of  
9 rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United  
10 States or by any State on account of sex" and was first introduced in  
11 Congress in 1923 and filed every session thereafter from 1923 to 1972;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The Equal Rights Amendment was finally approved by  
14 Congress in 1972 and sent to the states for ratification with a  
15 seven-year deadline; and

16 WHEREAS, Washington has been on the forefront of providing equality  
17 for all its citizens and in 1972 passed its own Equal Rights Amendment  
18 to the Washington state Constitution which prohibits discrimination on  
19 the basis of sex and then on March 22, 1973, Washington became the  
20 thirtieth state to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment; and

1       WHEREAS, In 1978 Congress extended the original ratification  
2 deadline for three more years and thirty-five of the needed  
3 thirty-eight states ratified the proposed amendment before the  
4 deadline; and

5       WHEREAS, Washington intends to join other states, such as North  
6 Dakota, in reaffirming that the bedrock principles of our democracy -  
7 "all men are created equal," "liberty and justice for all," "government  
8 of the people, by the people, and for the people" - apply equally to  
9 men and women;

10       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request recognition  
11 that Washington acknowledges and reaffirms the actions taken by the  
12 43rd Legislature in passing House Joint Resolution No. 10, ratifying  
13 the federal Equal Rights Amendment.

14       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
15 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
16 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
17 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
18 Washington.

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