




## District 16

Senator: Assisted Majority Leader <a href="#">Gary H. Dahms (16, R)</a>	Representative <a href="#">Chris Swedzinski (16A, R)</a>	Representative <a href="#">Paul Torkelson (16B, R)</a>
		
<b>Office Number:</b> 2111 <b>Phone:</b> 651-296-8138 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:sen.gary.dahms@senate.mn">sen.gary.dahms@senate.mn</a> <b>ERA Position:</b> Support unknown. Ask to support and actively advocate for the ERA.	<b>Office Number:</b> 245 <b>Phone:</b> 651-296-5374 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:rep.chris.swedzinski@house.mn">rep.chris.swedzinski@house.mn</a> <b>ERA Position:</b> Support unknown. Ask to support and actively advocate for the ERA.	<b>Office Number:</b> 251 <b>Phone:</b> 651-296-9303 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:rep.paul.torkelson@house.mn">rep.paul.torkelson@house.mn</a> <b>ERA Position:</b> Support unknown. Ask to support and actively advocate for the ERA.

### Action Steps

1. Visit each of your legislators: your state senator and your state representative.
2. Talk to them about why YOU feel it is important to have an ERA in our state and federal constitutions.
3. You can refer to the bill numbers:
  - a. House File 13 (HF13) and Senate File 200 (SF200) will put the state ERA on the 2020 statewide ballot for the voters to decide to include gender equality into the MN Constitution.
  - b. House File 71 (HF71) and Senate File 208 (SF208) are bills to pass a resolution for the deadline be removed from the Federal ERA to accept the final 3 states' ratification.
4. Ask your legislators to take action – the chart above indicates the type of action they can take!
5. If they are not available, leave a postcard that identifies you are from their district, tells your story or your message, and be sure it asks for their support.

### How to Talk to Your Representative about the ERA

You can use the following language to talk about the ERA with your legislators. Or use it in the postcard you leave or mail in. Feel free to personalize the statements with your own stories or positions.

- We need the ERA to create a clearer, more just judicial standard for deciding legal cases of sex discrimination. Sex or gender discrimination should get the highest level of strict judicial scrutiny - as does race, religion and national origin that are included in the U.S. Constitution - but it currently receives only intermediate scrutiny.
- Twenty-four other states in the United States have added a version of an Equal Rights Amendment to their state

constitutions. It is time to give Minnesotans the opportunity to include gender protection in our constitution with a vote for an Equal Rights Amendment in 2020.

- Recent events have shown that despite progress made over the last 50 years, women still face inequality due to sexual harassment & gender violence, inequitable pay & workplace discrimination. And the only remedy we have is to challenge these in court. But the courts are an uncertain place to determine equality because gender is not protected from discrimination. Men & fathers will benefit from the ERA as well.
- Women are more than half of the population. More than 90% of all Americans support gender equality to be guaranteed in the US Constitution, and more than 75% of our population assume it is already guaranteed. Respect for women should not be assumed, and enforcement of existing laws should not be taken for granted. It is time the bedrock of our governing documents catch up with the will and the expectations of the people.
- The ERA is only 14 words. Now is the time to ensure equal justice is available for ALL Minnesotans. Now is the time to take the next step towards a better, more equal Minnesota.