

Equal rights

To the editor: The higher concept of the ERA still isn't clear to some. Drips and drabs of legislation to eke out equality for women may look good on paper but don't cut it! They mask the resistance to including 53% of our population.

Our nation needs to establish an all-embracing constitutional personal attitude toward women (and men) that affirms, assures and aspires to equality as a reality of the highest calling. As intended in the simple, clear, forthright language of the Equal Rights Amendment, it would be the highest statement possible affirming our nation's intentional, expected, positive treatment of women across the board.

It would send the message that men and women together must engage in the process of turning around hundreds of years of objectifying, discriminating actions and attitudes toward women. It would define us as trying to live in a state of equality in everyday life without women having to prove discrimination constantly.

The ERA definitely does not belong in the "trash bin" because it's too pure for that. The ERA can't change attitudes and treatment overnight because of deeply embedded conditioning delegating and controlling a "woman's place," but it's the right "start" action to shift the paradigm. Women have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

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