

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 29, 1978

Mr. Jan Suter
309 Navajo
Maumee, Ohio 43537

Dear Mr. Suter:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me about the Equal Rights Amendment.

I favor ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, and have joined with my colleagues in cosponsoring the resolution extending the time period for states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. I have also signed a letter urging Majority Leader Robert Byrd to bring this issue to the Senate floor this year. The House earlier extended the deadline 39 months beyond the present March 22, 1979. I feel we need to provide equal opportunities for all of our citizens and prevent discrimination based on sex and marital status.

A number of well-intentioned people have challenged the right of Congress to extend the ratification period. However, the Constitution of the United States places no time-limit on ratification of amendments. Therefore, I am opposing the efforts of the opponents of this Amendment who want to permit states that have ratified ERA the power to retract their ratification. Because Article V of the Constitution, specifying the procedures for ratification, provides no procedure for ratification, it is my view if Congress believes rescission should be available to states that have previously ratified proposed Constitutional amendments, then Congress should begin the process of amending the Constitution to provide a rescission procedure.

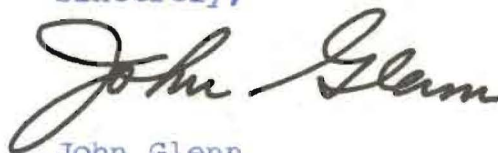
As you may know, a filibuster is threatened against the resolution, raising the question of a vote for cloture. It is my long-held belief that issues brought up on the Senate floor should pass or fail on their own merits and by decision of all the Senators. I have consistently voted for cloture to end filibusters and will vote to stop a filibuster against the Equal Rights Amendment.

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I appreciated hearing from you on this important issue.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Glenn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

John Glenn
United States Senator

JG/kc