

1 [Supporting House Joint Resolution No. 79 (Speier) - Removing the Deadline for the
2 Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment]

3 **Resolution declaring support for United States House Joint Resolution No. 79,**
4 **authored by Congresswoman Jackie Speier, which would allow for the final ratification**
5 **of the Equal Rights Amendment; and urging for its final passage in the United States**
6 **Senate.**

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8 WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary since the ratification of the 19th
9 Amendment to the United States Constitution, which established universal women’s suffrage,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, As of 2019, women make up 51 percent of the population in the United
12 States, but are not represented fairly in government, including comprising:

- 13 • 25 percent of the U.S. Senate
- 14 • 23 percent of the U.S. House of Representatives
- 15 • 29 percent of statewide elected executives
- 16 • 29 percent of state legislative seats,
- 17 • 229 percent of mayors in cities with populations over 30,000, and

18 WHEREAS, Women currently only hold three of the eleven seats on the San Francisco
19 Board of Supervisors, and

20 WHEREAS, Women are nearly half of the workforce, and are breadwinners in half of all
21 American families with children, and

22 WHEREAS, In 2018, female full-time, year-round workers made only 82 cents for every
23 dollar earned by men, and

24 WHEREAS, Women earn less than men in nearly every single occupation, and
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1 WHEREAS, Women in middle-skill occupations earn only 66 percent of what men in
2 middle-skill occupations earn, and

3 WHEREAS, Young women and low-income women are disproportionately victims of
4 domestic violence and rape, and

5 WHEREAS, Despite these staggering statistics demonstrating the disparate treatment
6 of women in American, 96 percent of Americans believe men and women should have equal
7 rights and 88 percent believe that the Constitution should affirm those rights, and

8 WHEREAS, The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which states that equality of rights
9 under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account
10 of sex, was first introduced by Senator Charles Curtis in October of 1921, but never received
11 a floor vote, and

12 WHEREAS, The ERA was reintroduced by Representative Martha Griffiths in 1971,
13 approved the House of Representatives on October 12, 1971, and by the U.S. Senate on
14 March 22, 1972, and

15 WHEREAS, Congress required that 38 states ratify the Equal Rights Amendment
16 before March 22, 1979, and

17 WHEREAS, Ratification efforts stalled after only 35 states ratified the Equal Rights
18 Amendment by the deadline, but that effort has been renewed, and

19 WHEREAS, Nevada, which recently elected a female majority legislature, was the first
20 state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment after the deadline on March 22, 2017, and

21 WHEREAS, Two additional states ratified the Equal Rights Amendment - Illinois on
22 May 30, 2019, and Virginia on January 15, 2020, - bringing the total number of states that
23 have ratified the ERA to 38, the total necessary for full adoption, and

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1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice has prevented the amendment
2 from becoming law by directing the national archivist from certifying its passage on the
3 grounds that deadline for passage has lapsed, and

4 WHEREAS, On November 8, 2019, Representative Jackie Speier introduced House
5 Joint Resolution No. 79 (H.J. Res. 79), which would remove the deadline to ratify the original
6 amendment, and

7 WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives passed H.J. Res. 79 on
8 February 13, 2020 by 232-183, but final passage remains uncertain, and

9 WHEREAS, The United States Senate Majority Leader has signaled he may not allow
10 H.J. Res. 79 to come to the Senate floor for a vote, and,

11 WHEREAS, The President has indicated he may refuse to sign H.J. Res. 79 if it is
12 passed, and, therefore, be it,

13 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
14 recognizes that women in America still face widespread discrimination in the workforce,
15 disproportionately sexual violence, continue to be unrepresented in government, and face
16 disparate economic hardship, and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
18 Francisco finds that the Equal Rights Amendment is as necessary now as when it was first
19 conceived in 1921, and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
21 Francisco declares its support for H.J. Res. 79 and for the Equal Rights Amendment, and, be
22 it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
24 Francisco urges the United States Senate to pass H.J. Res. 79, and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk
2 of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the United States Congress and the City
3 Lobbyist upon passage.

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