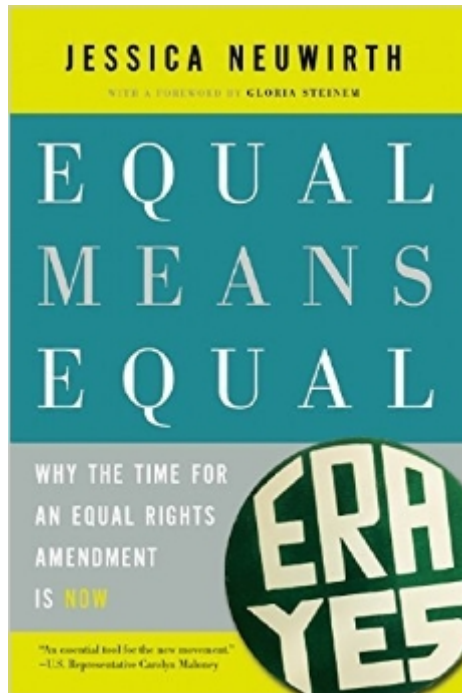


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# Equal Means Equal: Why The Time For An Equal Rights Amendment Is Now



## Synopsis

When the Equal Rights Amendment was first passed by Congress in 1972, Richard Nixon was president and All in the Family's Archie Bunker was telling his feisty wife Edith to stifle it. Over the course of the next ten years, an initial wave of enthusiasm led to ratification of the ERA by thirty-five states, just three short of the thirty-eight states needed by the 1982 deadline. Many of the arguments against the ERA that historically stood in the way of ratification have gone the way of bouffant hairdos and Bobby Riggs, and a new Coalition for the ERA was recently set up to bring the experience and wisdom of old-guard activists together with the energy and social media skills of a new-guard generation of women. In a series of short, accessible chapters looking at several key areas of sex discrimination recognized by the Supreme Court, Equal Means Equal tells the story of the legal cases that inform the need for an ERA, along with contemporary cases in which women's rights are compromised without the protection of an ERA. Covering topics ranging from pay equity and pregnancy discrimination to violence against women, Equal Means Equal makes abundantly clear that an ERA will improve the lives of real women living in America.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jessica Neuwirth has written a crucial book that could not be more timely. Appallingly, women are still being denied equality under the law in the United States. An Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is needed to end this long and miserable history of discrimination. Ms. Neuwirth is eminently qualified to write this book. She was trained at Yale and at Harvard Law School. She has been the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights. She explains what happened to the Equal Rights Amendment that was proposed in the 1970's and lays out reasons why the ERA needs to be reactivated. She also identifies practical resources - books, articles and websites - and provides sample legislation. Is this needed? Yes. In fact, a quotation from Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the U.S. Supreme Court appears on the back of the book: "I would like in my lifetime to see women get fired up about the Equal Rights Amendment." Neuwirth also cites Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia as noting that the Constitution does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. In cases involving wage inequity, pregnancy, violence, and in a variety of other areas, women are still treated as second-class citizens. People who make legal claims based on racial or religious discrimination actually get more favorable treatment under the law than women do. Since the ERA failed in 1982, Congress and state legislatures have responded in a variety of ways, creating a messy patchwork of laws that may or may not protect a women's rights. The discrimination women suffer can affect their jobs, their lives, and the lives of their children. Some of the examples Neuwirth gives are seriously disappointing. Others, however, are truly tragic.

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