

For Immediate Release

Zonta Club of AnyTown  
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## **Zonta Club of Anytown Advocates for Equal Rights Amendment and Campus Safety on Capitol Hill**

On Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Jane Doe, Jill Smith, and Brian Brown from the Zonta Club of Anytown traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Senator Jim Latic and Senator Sharon Stone's offices to advocate for the removal of the deadline - imposed by Congress - for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. In addition, the Zonta Club of Anytown representatives requested the passage of the bipartisan Campus Accountability and Safety Act.

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), unlike the Fourteenth Amendment, guarantees that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex." The Supreme Court cases have consistently interpreted the constitution as not protecting women from discrimination. Famously, Justice Scalia said in September of 2010 that he did not think that the constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by congress in 1972 and was sent to the states for ratification. It was ratified by 35 of the necessary 38 state legislatures, but the process stalled past the extended ratification deadline in 1982, short only three states. The ERA gained momentum again this year when Nevada became the 36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the ERA. For the ERA to be amended to the US Constitution, the Senate will need to remove the ratification deadline, and two additional states will need to ratify the amendment.

The bipartisan Campus Accountability and Safety Act was introduced in March of 2017 to get the resources, fairness, training, reporting and accountability needed to make US college campuses accountable for sexual assaults and to make college campuses safer for students. This bill was created with input from victims and law enforcement to address gaps in current legislation.

Zonta Club of Anytown was founded in 1942, and its local membership empowers women through service and advocacy. The club's signature projects are \* Service project 1 \* Fundraiser 2. The Zonta club of Anytown meets the third Tuesday of every month at Denny's. [www.ZontaAnytown.org](http://www.ZontaAnytown.org)

Founded in Buffalo, New York in 1919, Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to empower women worldwide through service and advocacy. With more than 29,000 members in 66 countries, Zontians all over the world volunteer their time, talent and support to local and international service projects and educational programs directed to improving the lives of women and girls. Zonta has General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), participatory status with the Council of Europe, and special relationships with United Nations entities promoting women's rights. To learn more, visit [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org).

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