



VIA FACSIMILE

June 21, 2005

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), I am writing in strong support of the Equal Rights Amendment, H.J. Res. 37.

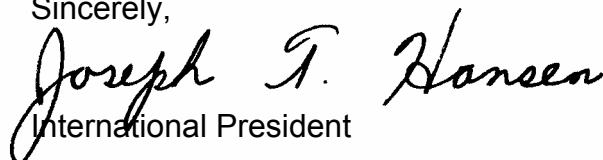
Our nation has a valued tradition of expanding equality and the rights of our citizens. In spite of our progress, we cannot allow ourselves to believe that gender-based discrimination remains only in our history. When research shows that we have a persistent wage gap resulting in lower wages for women and a widely acknowledged glass ceiling which prevents women from fully participating in the workplace, the economic impact of the discrimination becomes clear.

The need to enshrine equal rights for women in the U.S. Constitution can be described in one word—justice. The patchwork of federal, state, and local laws aimed at preventing discrimination are based upon the obvious fact that the constitution is silent on discrimination against women. Our Founding Fathers did not create a perfect document; the Bill of Rights and numerous constitutional amendments were needed to make this a more perfect union, but the Equal Rights Amendment is also needed.

On behalf of all of our members—both women and men—we are deeply committed to this issue, and we urge your cosponsorship and support.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and please feel free to contact me if you need more information

Sincerely,

  
International President

JTH:MJW/JED:dpw