

ERA and Illinois - *continued*

Why is this necessary? The ERA would include equal rights in the US Constitution. Legislative changes are a patchwork at best, potentially revocable by legislative whim or nullified by the courts. The lack of an Equal Rights Amendment allowed Justice Scalia, in 2010, to declare that the Constitution does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. For that, he stated, “you have legislatures.” Today you cannot seek redress based on the Constitution; instead you can pass a law, and then pass another law, and then pass another law, and then litigate them all. (omit this next sentence: No wonder Illinois women earn only 80 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

This simple Amendment has the power to bring change. The Illinois state constitution *already* guarantees in Illinois that “equal protection of the laws shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex by the State....”; the Illinois House should take the simple step of ratifying the federal constitutional amendment that would include equal protection of the laws regardless of sex in the **US Constitution and apply that to all the states and to the US government.**