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ERA Illinois announces Mega-Coalition ERA RALLY Day on May 8, 2018; Organizers Push for Ratification in the Illinois House of Representatives

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Chicago, April 28, 2018 – Organizers from across Illinois call on women and their allies to join in their May 8, 2018 effort to lobby the Illinois House of Representatives to vote in favor of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The organizers have built a mega-coalition of groups supporting an effort to lobby for ratification of the ERA (SJRCA4) in the #MeToo and #TimesUp era.

Supporters around the state have hosted postcard drives to legislators, phone trees, and lobby days. Now, they turn their focus to a May 8, 2018 rally in the state Capitol to push the House of Representatives for a vote in favor of ratification. “We believe the groundwork has been laid for passage of the ERA in Illinois. This measure enjoys broad-based bipartisan support across the state,” according to ERA Illinois organizer Jennifer Lee. Lee said that organizers hope the rally will influence a vote for passage in the House of Representatives.

The sheer number of organizations supporting passage of the ERA reveals the grassroots and more traditional establishment backing of the effort. Michelle Fadeley of ERA Illinois has been working to organize coalition support for the effort. “Hundreds of organizers across the State have been working and organizing together to lift up women’s voices to support this historic measure. We believe that together we can pass the ERA in Illinois during the 2018 legislative session. Join us as we march toward herstory on May 8.”

ERA supporters will gather in Springfield outside the Capitol for a noon rally by the Lincoln Statue and lobby day. Supporters from across the state are encouraged to attend.

Groups supporting the effort include ERA Illinois, League of Women Voters, AAUW, Chicago Women’s Bar Association, American Bar Association, VoteERA.org, Women’s March Chicago, Farming Wives, Federal Agricultural Institute, WISER (Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement), Illinois NOW, Federally Employed Women, Women Donors Network, Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas, Inc., Women of the GOP-Chicago, Action Illinois, Feminist Majority, Women’s Conservative League, Women’s Action for New Directions, Illinois Federation of Business Women’s Clubs, Women’s Environmental and Development Organization, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Ratify ERA Illinois, Women’s Institute for Freedom of the Press, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Legal Momentum, Women’s Research and Education Institute, National Association for Girls and Women in Sports, YWCA of the USA, Planned Parenthood of Illinois, National Association for Women in Education, Cause the Effect Chicago, Women Employed, Working Women’s History Project, National Association of Commissions for Women, Alice Paul Institute, National Committee on Pay Equity, American Ethical Union, National Council of Jewish Women, American Humanist Association, National Council of Women of the United States, American Sociological Association, National Council of Women’s Organizations, Americans for Democratic Action, National Federation of Democratic Women, Black Women’s Agenda, Inc., National Organization for Men Against Sexism, Board of Church & Society: United Methodist Church, National Partnership for Women and Families, Catholics for a Free Choice, National Women’s Law Center, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Sierra Club, and Indivisible Illinois.