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## **Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie on the Equal Rights Amendment**

Edmund S. Muskie

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IMMEDIATELY  
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## STATEMENT ON EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Me) made the following statement in the Senate today following Senate passage of the Equal Rights Amendment:

Mr. President, after decades of debate and delay, the Senate has acted to make the rights of women under the Constitution explicit. We must remember, however, that this vote by the Senate to approve the Equal Rights Amendment signals only a commitment - a national commitment - to the remaining task of making equality for women a reality in practice.

Even when the Amendment has been ratified by three-fourths of the states, it will not in and of itself bring the equality it proclaims. This must be translated into action by court decisions, legislation, vigorous executive action at the Federal and State levels, and by the practice of us all as citizens.

Meantime, adequate enforcement of the laws we now have against discrimination in employment, in pay, in promotion, in training, must be a first order of business. And we must be constantly alert to the policies, institutions and pressures which directly or indirectly steer women into low-paid or dead-end jobs.

Nor can we be content with any welfare system which does not enable mothers who are without other means of support to lift themselves out of the poverty in which they and their children are trapped.

Nor can we be satisfied until the children of all working women are assured adequate day care.

All this and much more is a part of the task of making women full and equal partners in American life. It is part of the struggle of this decade to bring the substance of justice to Americans of all races and conditions.