

Appendix D

**AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION**

**Proposing Amendments.** Amendments to the United States Constitution are rarely proposed. Use a concurrent resolution addressed to Congress to urge Congress to propose an amendment.

**EXAMPLE:**

HEADING

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

ADDRESS CLAUSE

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

INTRODUCTORY CLAUSE

We, the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

PREAMBLE

Whereas although the right of free expression is part of the foundation of the United States Constitution, very carefully drawn limits on expression in specific instances have long been recognized as legitimate means of maintaining public safety and decency, as well as orderliness and productive value of public debate; and

Whereas certain actions, although arguably related to one person's free expression, nevertheless raise issues concerning public decency, public peace, and the rights of expression and sacred values of others; and

Whereas there are symbols of our national soul such as the Washington Monument, the United States Capitol and memorials to our greatest leaders that are the property of every American and therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

Whereas the American flag is a most honorable and worthy banner of a nation thankful for its own strengths, committed to curing its faults, and the continued destination of millions of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal; and

Whereas the law, as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court, no longer accords to the Stars and Stripes that reverence, respect and dignity befitting the banner of that most noble experiment of a nation; and

Whereas it is only fitting that people everywhere should lend their voices to a forceful call for restoration to the Stars and Stripes of a proper station under law and decency; now, therefore,

RESOLVING CLAUSE

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

BODY

(1) We, the members of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, urge the Congress of the United States to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution specifying that Congress and the several states shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States of America.

(2) A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the President of the United States and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

**Ratifying Amendments.** Occasionally, the Legislative Assembly is asked to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution. Use a joint resolution to ratify an amendment.

**EXAMPLE:**

HEADING

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

PREAMBLE

Whereas the Ninety-second Congress of the United States of America, at its second session begun and held at the City of Washington on January 18, 1972, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds vote in both houses adopted a Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, as follows:

“ARTICLE—

“Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

“Sec. 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

“Sec. 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”; and

Whereas the proposed amendment shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution of the United States when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress; now, therefore,

RESOLVING CLAUSE  
BODY

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:.**

(1) The proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to equal rights for men and women, as set forth in this resolution, hereby is ratified.

(2) The Secretary of State shall send certified copies of this resolution to the Administrator of General Services of the United States, to the presiding officer of the United States Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

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