

Mr. Chair, members of the committee, for the record my name is Kerry Godfrey Scroggins. I am a Senior Global Marketing Director at Nike and I live in Portland., OR.

I am the Mother of two children, a son and a daughter. I am the wife of a husband, who counter to cultural norm, is a stay at home Father - a Father and a husband who traded his career as a residential homebuilder to "Chief Domestic Officer" so that I could pursue my own. I am very thankful that we were able to make this choice and our peers and community embrace it. He and I were raised in the spirit of the "ERA", but recently I learned I wasn't and am not solidly protected against gender discrimination, as the ERA is not yet expressed in the Constitution. Though I value our country's history and tradition this needs to change. This must change so both men and women are equally protected.

I am the daughter of a woman who earned straight A's in high school yet she could not overcome societal norms to pursue a college education and career. Though her less studious brothers went onto prep school and higher education, her only option was Secretarial School. This was considered "culture" in the 40's; I call it discrimination, as did my Mother. She never wanted this for her own children. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts at age 65. (So, it took a few years!)

Fast forward to me, I have had different choices. I played sports throughout my childhood - thank you Title IX. I didn't know that there was a time this wouldn't have been an option. I have lived in Oregon for nearly twenty years. I moved here from Massachusetts to work for Nike. Yes, a company dominated by male leadership but one that has provided me with many professional advantages. But let's be frank; let's look at the numbers. How many times am I the only woman in a meeting? When I look around at senior leadership, where are the women? The numbers are small, growing...but they remain small.

In honor of my 9 yr. old daughter, Taitum, my nieces and my community, I am asking you to amend the Oregon Constitution with the Equal Rights Amendment so that women and girls for generations to come will have their equality expressed and protected under the Oregon Constitution. Like my mother's "so it took a few years..." education, let's not wait any longer. It's already been over a century and a half (since 1859) since the Oregon Constitution's was adopted and has not been amended. Times have changed. Let's pass HJR 35 and allow the issue to voters on the May 2014 ballot. Let's get this done. Thank you for your support.