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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515
July 13, 1971

*women
rights -*

The Honorable Frances Tarlton Farenthold
Texas House of Representatives
State Capitol
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Representative Farenthold:

At the federal level, I have attempted to call attention to various discriminatory laws, regulations and practices affecting women and to propose remedies. But, to successfully achieve legal equality for women, the battle must be waged at both the federal and state levels.

This year in the House, I again have re-introduced the Equal Rights Amendment, H.J.Res. 208, directed at governments and prohibiting laws that discriminate on the basis of sex. You may recall that last year, my resolution overwhelmingly passed the House by a vote of 350-15, but failed to reach a vote in the Senate before adjournment of the 91st Congress. In this Congress, the House Judiciary Committee recently ordered reported the resolution, but with an amendment which would exempt women from the draft and permit state laws that recognize differences between men and women to remain in effect. In my judgment, this provision would nullify the effect of the amendment and I hope to have it deleted. I also have introduced a resolution, H. Res. 344, which would require most standing committees of the U.S. House of Representatives to investigate all laws and regulations within their jurisdiction and to identify those which treat men and women differently and to determine which of those differences in treatment are "appropriate and justifiable" and which are "unduly and unnecessarily discriminatory on account of sex".

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It is my hope that similar type action be taken on the state level. State laws, particularly those dealing with employment, civil and political rights, social insurance, domestic relations, taxes, crime, property, and education should be closely scrutinized so that every restrictive law affecting women may be brought to light and corrected. One of the real problems confronted is in identifying those discriminatory laws and regulations and making them generally

known. Too often, they remain hidden, only known to women personally affected by the injustices they bear.

Certainly, any help you could extend in this direction would be appreciated, or if such action has been pursued within your state, I would be pleased to hear from you. Enclosed for your interest is testimony I submitted this year before a House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Equal Rights Amendment.

Sincerely yours,

Martha W. Griffiths
Martha W. Griffiths
Member of Congress

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