



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
Liz Krueger

Legislature Passes Equal Rights Amendment

LIZ KRUEGER January 24, 2023

| ISSUE: **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**



Albany – On Tuesday, January 24th, the State Senate and Assembly passed for the second time a proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the State Constitution. The amendment, [S.108/A.1283](#) sponsored by Senator Liz Krueger and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, will extend current constitutional protections against discrimination to several new protected classes, as well as protecting access to contraception and abortion.

"Days after what would have been the 50th anniversary of Roe, we are affirming yet again that we will not allow New Yorkers to be pulled backward, we will not allow the progress we have made on reproductive freedom to be undone," said **Senator Krueger**. "Women have waited far too long to be included in our State Constitution, but so have LGBTQ people,

people with disabilities, Latinos, and everyone who has faced discrimination based on characteristics that are beyond their control. The 1930s-era equal rights language in our State Constitution is long overdue for an update to ensure that equal rights are for everyone. I am proud that today we will send this amendment to the people."

[Click here to watch Sen. Krueger speaking about the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.](#)

"We have witnessed the obliteration by our nation's highest judicial tribunal of fifty years of federal protection of the rights of women to determine the future of their bodies," said **Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright**. "As the federal courts turn the clock back on Civil Rights, Human Rights and Voting Rights, we cannot and must not stand by while freedom of choice and freedom from discrimination are so outrageously denied. We are closer than ever to enshrining a woman's right to choose and equality protections against discrimination in the most important governing document of our state. Now the voters will have the opportunity to vote for equality on the ballot in November 2024."

The New York State Constitution's Equal Protection Clause already prohibits discrimination based on race, color, creed, and religion. The Equal Rights Amendment will add new anti-discrimination protections to the Constitution, including explicit guarantees for reproductive rights and marriage equality. The amendment adds new protected classes, specifically prohibiting discrimination on account of a person's age, disability, ethnicity, national origin, or sex including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare choices. The Legislature first passed the measure in June 2022 after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Following today's second passage, the amendment will now go to voters for ratification in the November 2024 general election.

###

RELATED LEGISLATION

2023-S108

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Relates to equal protection

December 28, 2022

In Senate Committee [Judiciary](#)

Sponsored by [Liz Krueger](#)

Do you support this bill?
