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(Patron Prior to Substitute-Senator Chase)
Reaffirming that all persons residing in the Commonwealth of Virginia are afforded equal protection under the law.
WHEREAS, the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that "[n]o person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law" by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that no state can "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws"; and

WHEREAS, Article VI of the United States Constitution establishes the United States Constitution as the supreme law of the land; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia is a place that respects and values the differences of individuals and strives to ensure equality for both women and men; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly reaffirm that all persons residing in the Commonwealth are afforded equal protection under the law; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia hereby ratify and affirm the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed by the United States Congress on March 22, 1972, as House Joint Resolution 208 and ratified by 37 state legislatures; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

