

March 5, 2021

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING DISTRICT COURT DECISION IN
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT LAWSUIT**

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul issued the following statement in response to a U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia decision to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Raoul, Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford and Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring to ensure the Equal Rights Amendment is recognized as the 28th Amendment.

“While today’s decision is disappointing – particularly as we recognize Women’s History Month – it does not change the fact that women have equal rights under the law.

“I filed a lawsuit with Attorneys General Ford and Herring because we believe all of the requirements have been met for equal rights for all Americans to be enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, and we do not believe that Congress’ arbitrary deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment is effective.

“Today’s ruling may seem like a setback, but we will continue to fight for our Constitution to explicitly prohibit all forms of discrimination, including that based on sex.”

Illinois ratified the ERA in 2018. When combined with Nevada’s ratification in 2017 and Virginia’s ratification in January 2020, a total of 38 states have now ratified the ERA, passing the constitutional threshold required for the ERA to become the 28th Amendment.

Attorney General Raoul, with Attorneys General Ford and Herring, filed a lawsuit in 2020 to ensure that the Equal Rights amendment is acknowledged as the 28th Amendment, enshrining equal rights for women in the Constitution. Approximately 108 business groups, 95 advocacy groups and bar associations, and 21 states and the District of Columbia have filed amicus briefs supporting Raoul’s lawsuit. With the ERA, the U.S. Constitution provides an explicit guarantee of protection against discrimination based on sex.