



STANDING UP FOR WOMEN

Despite important protections in current law, women continue to face significant discrimination in American society, including unequal pay, failures to accommodate pregnancy, and restrictions on a woman's ability to make her own health care decisions. That is why the Judiciary Committee acted to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, which would finally enshrine in the text of the Constitution nondiscrimination protections on the basis of sex. The Committee also passed reauthorization of the landmark Violence Against Women Act and examined the ongoing assault against reproductive freedom by the Trump Administration and various states across the country.

COMMITTEE WORK

H.R. 777, the “Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2019” [Passed House, LAW]*

H.R. 1585, the “Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019” [Marked Up, Passed House]

H.R. 6100, the “Strengthening the Opposition to Female Genital Mutilation (STOP FGM) Act of 2020” [Marked Up]

H. J. Res. 79, Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. [Marked Up, Passed House]

H. Res. 354, Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States. [Passed House]

Hearing: Equal Rights Amendment

Hearing: Threats to Reproductive Rights in America

Hearing: Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act

Hearing: Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System

Spotlight: Although the Republican-controlled Senate has refused to take up reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, one critical provision of that legislation did become law. The “Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act” authorizes funding to end the backlog of untested and unanalyzed DNA samples, including rape kits, which help identify the perpetrators of sexual assault.