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On Behalf Of:
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When I found out I was pregnant, I was ecstatic. I met my husband later in life and we had a difficult time trying for a family. I'll never forget how I felt the moment we found out we were having a little girl. The very first thought that went through my head was this:

"I have no idea how I'm going to protect her."

I had been a woman in America for decades at that point, and I knew that women in America pay a steeper price than our contemporaries in other Western societies. I had personally experienced sexual harassment in the workplace, making a lower wage than my male colleagues for the same work, dismissive healthcare attention and many of the other inequalities that American women face every day. So how do I keep my daughter from growing up feeling guarded and shamed from the same experiences?

The ERA is not a perfect solution. It is, however, the best step in the right direction toward recognizing that women are not subservient or even inferior to men in the eyes of the law. Perhaps if the State of Oregon can support this amendment, I can have hope for my daughter's future as an equal American citizen, not a young American woman who is seen as less than a man in the eyes of her government.