

POLI 330N Week 7 Discussion

- **Option 1:** The Equal Rights Amendment was first proposed almost a century ago and has still not been added to the United States Constitution. It is supposed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. It was first introduced to Congress by Alice Paul, leader of women's suffrage movement in 1923. Compare/contrast the Equal Rights Amendment with the Fourteenth Amendment. Did they deal with separate concepts? Explain your answer.
- **Option 2:** The Bill of Rights is not only included with the United States Constitution but also state constitutions. All states have provisions in their constitutions that protect individual rights. Go online and look up your state constitution concerning amendments that are included in the Bill of Rights. How does your state constitution protect your individual rights?

Answer

The Equal Rights Amendment was a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution that would provide legal rights to all Americans, regardless of gender, while the Fourteenth Amendment promised equal protection of the laws to all Americans, including formerly enslaved people (Voros, 2017, p.13). The Equal Rights Amendment said that women should have equal rights in the United States without being discriminated against because of their gender. In contrast, the Fourteenth Amendment encouraged citizenship to all people born in the United States, including freed slaves (Brown et al, 1971. P. 881). Both amendments were intended to