



*New York State Archives*

## **Transcript of audio file excerpt: New York State Senator Linda Winikow opens debate on the Equal Rights Amendment to the New York State Constitution, 1975**

Series L0241-05, Debate on the state equal rights amendment, 1975, New York (State) Legislature, Senate.  
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Description: Sponsoring Senator Linda Winikow begins the debate on the Senate passage for the Equal Rights Amendment to the New York State Constitution.

This excerpt (02:34) and the complete audio file (05:14:34) are available for order. Please contact our reference desk at [ARCHREF@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:ARCHREF@mail.nysed.gov) or (518) 474-8955 for more information.

**Senator Winikow:** I speak today as a citizen of this country; the State; as a first-term State Senator; as a wife of fourteen years with a fine, loving, caring relationship with my husband; as a mother of two sons, with the knowledge of what it is to have infants grow inside of me, which, in some ways, is the most creative of all experiences. I speak today as a woman who, in many ways, has achieved as much as any person could yearn for.

I have been serving the people for many years and hope to continue to do so. But I wonder if I will ever sponsor a measure with greater import for both the present and the future than the Equal Rights Amendment. Today I stand as the lead name on a measure co-sponsored by twenty-two of my colleagues, male and female, representing the second passage of an amendment to the New York State Constitution, which will put before the people a clear choice. Shall we, as we enter our bicentennial year, reject the proposition that all men and women are created equal, or shall we affirm it and celebrate it?

While it was my labor that brought forth both my boys, both my husband and myself are the parents with equal responsibilities. Both of us. And we reflect the thinking of many Americans. Know that the [inaudible] choice is not whether a woman can accommodate the careers of mother and wife, or whether a man can accommodate the career of father and husband, but whether men and women can accommodate the often difficult but always rewarding multiple responsibilities of parent and spouse. To me, the family unit is most dear, and as a mother I want my sons to grow up in a society that treats everyone equal regardless of sex.