

Women in NC must rise above partisan politics, like women in Ohio did



Katherine Jeanes of Kannapolis, N.C. shows her support at a May 13, 2023 rally in Raleigh where N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed legislation that would further restrict abortions. Three days later, the Republican-controlled legislature overrode Cooper's veto. ROBERT WILLETTS [rwillett@newsobserver.com](mailto:rwillett@newsobserver.com)

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Jennifer McMillan Rubin

Women's Equality Day is Aug. 26. It marks the anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment, granting some women the right to vote in 1920. Then, as now, women of color faced additional barriers to representation. Today — 103 years later — women have fewer rights than they have had for decades.

At the national level, we have lost Constitutional protection of reproductive rights and the Equal Rights Amendment, which has stalled in Congress.

Let's look at what is happening to women's rights in North Carolina. Reproductive rights have been restricted, affecting the ability of child-bearing individuals to make decisions about whether and when to start a family. The legislature has inserted itself in gender affirming medical care decisions that families seek for their children.

Legislation being considered now has the potential to inflict damage on our public school system by funneling money away from public schools and to private schools through vouchers.

So, our public schools, our bodies and our families' health care are now all being negatively impacted by legislation, some of which has already become law. Is this women's equality?