

Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP)

540 Fairview Ave North, Room #209, St. Paul, MN 55104

April 1st, 2025

Dear Chair Klevorn and members of the State Government Finance & Policy Committee,

Asian American Organizing Project is an organization whose mission over the past decade has been to empower the over 200,000 young Asian Minnesotans to create systemic changes towards an equitable, conscious, and just society. We write in support of the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, HF 501, and we urge this committee — and this legislature — to empower Minnesotans to enshrine in our state constitution the most inclusive possible Equal Rights Amendment.

Equal protection under the law remains fundamental to the advancement of our democracy, yet too often do we see rollbacks on fundamental rights, many that specifically impact and target marginalized, underserved and vulnerable communities. The Minnesota ERA would offer a powerful counterweight, in providing everyone the strongest possible protections against discrimination based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sex — including pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation — no matter who's in power in state government.

The Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, particularly the provision protecting abortion access, has a high level of support for Asian Americans in Minnesota. A survey conducted by the Asian American Organizing Project found that over 80% of Asian Americans in Minnesota support abortion access. This amendment allows Minnesota the opportunity to cement the fact that reproductive rights are human rights.

Should the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment pass both the Legislative and ballot process, it would send a strong message to those who seek to undermine and repeal our inherent and intrinsic rights. That Minnesotans will not submit with silent reluctance, but will remain proactive in the defense of rights not just for ourselves, but our family, friends, neighbors, and for all who call Minnesota home.

The Asian American Organizing Project is proud to once again stand in strong support of the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment and we urge you to stand with your constituents. Our state constitution is one of the clearest reflections of our shared values as Minnesotans. Let us all work together to secure freedom, fairness, and equality into our Constitution.

Tenzin Choesang
Strategy Program Manager
Asian American Organizing Project