



March 31, 2025

Co-Chairs Jim Nash & Ginny Klevorn
State Government Finance & Policy Committee

Chairs Klevorn, Nash and Committee members:

The work of the African American Leadership Forum ('The Forum') is rooted creating radical Black futures where opportunity and justice are actualized. We partner with communities, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and governments to co-create solutions focused on many social and economic concerns. For nearly twenty years, The Forum has harnessed the collective power of Black communities to solve complex social problems. Our goal is to build a just and healthy society that works equally well for everyone.

We write in support of the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, HF 501.

We urge this committee — and this legislature — to empower Minnesotans to enshrine in our state constitution the most inclusive possible Equal Rights Amendment.

Our country is facing some of the most significant attacks on gender equity and self-determination we have ever seen. The Minnesota ERA would offer 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.

This ERA has widespread support from individuals across Minnesota, and the backing of labor, health, legal, reproductive justice, LGBTQ+, and philanthropic organizations. There are few clearer reflections of our values as Minnesotans than our state Constitution, and it is the civic right and responsibility of the people of our state to amend it as needed to ensure that it reflects our values as fully and clearly as possible.

The ERA that stands before you would do exactly this. I urge this committee to empower the people of this state to enshrine our commitment to freedom, fairness, and equal rights in our constitution – once and for all. After years of dedicated efforts to secure equal rights, it's time to trust Minnesotans and give them a say in the fight for equality.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Amber Jones
Managing Director | Policy Impact