



March 31, 2025

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

The Minnesota AFL-CIO’s mission is to improve the lives of working people, retirees, and our families — to bring economic and social justice to our workplaces, communities, state, and nation while striving to eliminate all forms and systems of oppression. 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 bodily autonomy 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.

Best regards,

Melissa Hysing  
Legislative Director

