ERA 2019, House Gov Ops & Judiciary

Thank you for allowing me to explain pro-life concerns with the ERA as presented in committee today. Many pro-lifers, myself included, are strong supporters of equal rights, and in fact, that is the reason we are pro-life—we believe that all humans, regardless of circumstance, race, gender, religious belief, disability, age, stage of development, sexual orientation or any other difference, should all be afforded equal rights under the law.

However, equal rights amendments have a history of discriminating against less developed humans, those yet to be born---and we do object to this. ERAs have been used in multiple states to rule as unconstitutional various pro-life laws (New Mexico, Connecticut).

Attempts to invalidate pro-life laws based on ERAs continue. Just last month, Pennsylvania’s prohibition on taxpayer funded abortion was challenged in court. According to the press release of the Women’s Law Project, “Its central claims are that the abortion coverage ban violates the Equal Rights Amendment and equal protection provisions of the Pennsylvania Constitution.”

MCCL has long encouraged the legislature to make proposed ERAs abortion-neutral. We believe an abortion neutral ERA would easily pass the legislature, and we urge the legislature to adopt that language.

Andrea Rau

Legislative Director

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life