



April 2, 2024

**Re: Testimony in Support of HF501**

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

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

**LWV Minnesota urges your support for HF501 to pass an inclusive state ERA – once and for all.**

The League of Women Voters was born out of a 72 year struggle for women's suffrage, and has worked across the country for 105 years to empower voters and defend democracy. We have persisted, and are pleased to see this campaign for long-awaited equal rights grow to engage more leaders and center those impacted by a lack of protection.

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.

Passing the ERA before you would empower the people of this state to enshrine our commitment to freedom, fairness, and equal rights into our constitution. After years of dedicated efforts to secure equal rights, it's time to let Minnesotans have a say in the struggle for equality under the law.

**We urge you to vote YES on HF501.**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Witte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michelle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Witte".

Michelle Witte, Executive Director  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

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