



VOICES FOR  
RACIAL JUSTICE

April 4, 2025

**RE: A Call to support the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, HF 501**

Dear Rep. Chairs Klevorn, Rep. Nash and committee members of the *House State Government Finance & Policy Committee*,

Voices for Racial Justice is a movement organization composed of leaders, organizers, and culture workers who use policy, organizing, and training to support historically marginalized communities to transform our realities, protect our rights, and bring our voices and expertise into spaces of power.

We are writing to strongly urge this committee to support the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment (HF 501). This amendment will provide some of the strongest legal protections against discrimination based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sex—including pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation—for all members of our communities in Minnesota.

Since the founding of our country, policies have been used to legitimize oppression, and to benefit the few at the expense of the many. As a result, our indigenous, black and brown communities remain excluded from decision-making spaces. This oppression has perpetuated policies that deepen the disparities between our communities. It is a fact that, as of today, our state is a paradox—one of the best places to live for white people, but one of the worst for communities of color (Professor Sam Myers). Therefore, it is imperative to protect ALL members of our communities from discrimination and to open the door for everyone in the state to thrive. The Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, HF 501, offers a way to address the wrongs of the past and create a new future for our state.

The ERA is long overdue. It's time for Minnesota to create a state that truly reflects the values of equity and intentionally acknowledges that everyone has the same rights, regardless of who they are. I urge this committee to support the ERA as a clear sign that you truly care about protecting ALL Minnesotans from any discrimination and that you are committed to taking the necessary steps to dismantle discriminatory practices in the state.

Sincerely,

**Mónica María Hurtado** (She/her/ella)

Policy Director



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