

April 1, 2025

**Women's Foundation of Minnesota Supports SF 473/HF 501**

Minnesota House State Government Finance & Policy committee members,

As the President and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, I am writing to express our support for HF 501, the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment. An Equal Rights Amendment in Minnesota has been a part of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota policy agenda goals for many years. We know our supporters have a legacy of supporting this legislation, marching on Washington in the 1970s, and leading the movement as volunteer advocates.

We know from our *Status on Women & Girls+* research that the gender wage gap in Minnesota hasn't narrowed over the past decade. On average, Minnesota women make 81 cents for every dollar a man makes—and for women of color, it's even lower. If you add that up over a lifetime, a woman in Minnesota loses almost half a million dollars across the course of her career—and a woman of color loses more than a million. As just one example of its potential impact, a Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment would give us one of the strongest tools in our toolbox to combat gender-based wage discrimination in Minnesota.

Ultimately, by passing the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment we would finally guarantee every Minnesotan has the same exact rights under the law, no matter who's sitting in the governor's office, the state legislature, or the courts.

We appreciate the authors Rep. Leigh Finke and Sen. Mary Kunesh for their tireless work. We ask you to listen to the voices of countless Minnesotans and organizations supporting this bill, including labor, health, legal, reproductive justice, and LGBTQ+ groups.

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.



Gloria Perez  
President & CEO