

Written Testimony in Opposition to SF37 (Her)

Minnesota House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee

May 6, 2024

Submitted by: Michael Falls

Dear legislators, as an Andover voter, I am very concerned about the wording of the proposed so-called Equal Rights Amendment. In particular, it is disappointing to conclude that our state legislators are even considering changes that would allow minors to undergo a life-changing event such as abortion without parental consent. Minors are considered minors for a reason as they are generally too young and immature to make fully-informed and rational decisions at that stage of their lives. Cutting their parents out of the equation will not only often remove a caring counselor from the decision-making process, but it also allows those with potentially ulterior motives to influence the child. For example, those will ulterior motives could include a boyfriend who just wants to get rid of the problem, a doctor or counselor who really doesn't fully understand or have a loving and long-term relationship with the minor child, those that use minor children sexually for personal gain (prostitution, etc.), or even an abortion provider who will profit from the abortion services they want to provide.

Historically, parental rights doctrines in Minnesota and other states have existed to protect minor children from predators and other negative influences in a child's life. If the parents no longer have the right to lovingly intervene on behalf of their minor child, who will do so? If there is intervention available from others (e.g., from a doctor or counselor), those individuals won't have to live with a potentially bad decision that affects the minor on a long-term basis (perhaps the rest of their lives). They can simply walk away from the minor child when they choose to do so, leaving the parents to manage any adverse effects of terminating the life of the minor's unborn child. Please do not be complicit in causing injury to our children - I urge you to vote no on the amendment.

Sincerely,
Michael Falls, Andover MN