

MN ERA HF 501
LETTER TESTIMONY
House State Government Finance & Policy Committee
Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025

Co-Chairs Klevorn & Nash and members of the State Government Finance & Policy Committee,

TakeAction Minnesota is a statewide, independent, multiracial people's organization with over 10,000 members working to advance democracy and equity through organizing, political action, and campaigns.

We write in support of the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, HF 501.

We urge this committee — and this legislature — to empower Minnesotans to enshrine in our state constitution the most inclusive possible Equal Rights Amendment.

Our country is facing some of the most significant attacks on bodily autonomy and self-determination we have ever seen. Our members across all our bases take great pride in living in a Trans Refuge State, and we're proud to have members for whom that monumental bill played a role in their choice to make Minnesota home. And yet, with the increasingly harmful federal government, we know that we need more to protect trans Minnesotans, and all Minnesotans, who are subject to discrimination and attacks from the federal government.

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.

TakeAction Minnesota's campaigns are focused on the lived experiences of students, parents, tenants, and performers. One of the many threads that connect our campaigns across the state and across issues, is the fundamental belief that all of us deserve a government that has our backs. Whether you're trying to book a gig or rent an apartment, attend school or work a job; all of us should be protected against discrimination. Many of our members would be directly impacted by the Minnesota ERA, but all of our members are clear that policy like this plays a role in making Minnesota the home we all deserve.

This ERA has widespread support from individuals across Minnesota, and the backing of labor, health, legal, reproductive justice, LGBTQ+, and philanthropic organizations.

There are few clearer reflections of our values as Minnesotans than our state Constitution, and it is the civic right and responsibility of the people of our state to amend it as needed to ensure that it reflects our values as fully and clearly as possible.

The ERA that stands before you would do exactly this. 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.

Thank you.

Amanda Otero
Co-Executive Director
TakeAction Minnesota