



MN ERA HF 501
LETTER TESTIMONY
House State Government Finance & Policy Committee
April 2, 1954

Dear Chairs Klevorn, Nash, and committee members,

The National Council of Jewish Women Minnesota (NCJW) is a 132-year-old grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families, and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

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 Minnesota 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. The core values that guide NCJW's work — pursuing justice for the oppressed, welcoming the stranger, and repairing the world — call on us to pursue legislative protections for Minnesotans.

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.

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.

Judith Kahn, Interim Executive Director
National Council of Jewish Women Minnesota