

MN ERA HF 501
LETTER TESTIMONY
House State Government Finance & Policy Committee
April 1, 2025

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

OutFront Minnesota is our state's largest 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy organization. We write in support of HF 501 and a fully inclusive Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment.

We urge this committee — and this legislature — to empower Minnesotans to enshrine equal rights in our state constitution.

Our country is facing some of the most significant attacks on bodily autonomy and self-determination we have ever seen. OutFront Minnesotan shares a vision with so many of our great state's citizens — a safe and equitable state where all members of our communities are free to lead lives of opportunity, autonomy, and full self-expression.

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment would enshrine into our state's Constitution critical protections against discrimination based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sex — including pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.

As our state's oldest and largest 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy organization, OutFront Minnesota understands that constitutional protections are vital for ensuring robust and enduring protections for all our state's citizens. Moreover, we believe that allowing Minnesotans to vote on this amendment opens the opportunity for greater democratic involvement, civic (and civil) discourse, and, ultimately, deeper protections for *all*.

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.

Let's ensure Minnesota's voters have the chance to take this vote on their values.

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.

Matthew Lewellyn-Otten
Director of Religious & Community Organizing
OutFront Minnesota