



May 3, 2024

Representative Her
359 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Her,

On behalf of the more than 300,000 members of Minnesota AFL-CIO affiliated unions, we are writing in support of SF 37, the Equal Rights Amendment to Minnesota’s constitution.

The Labor Movement is built on the idea that all people deserve fair and equal treatment with no exceptions – at the workplace, in our communities, and under our laws. Despite generations of hard-fought gains in multiple areas, neither the US nor the Minnesota Constitutions have language guaranteeing equal treatment regardless of gender.

This lack of explicit protections combined with a federal Supreme Court reversing longstanding legal precedents has led to multiple states rolling back reproductive freedoms and targeted legislation limiting transgender Americans’ freedoms. While none of these restrictions have come to Minnesota, we can’t be certain that future lawmakers or courts will keep them at bay. Minnesotans must have the opportunity to enshrine these fundamental rights in our state’s constitution.

The Equal Rights Amendment would prevent discrimination on the basis of race; color; national origin; ancestry; disability; or sex (including but not limited to: pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive freedom; gender identity or gender expression; or sexual orientation). The Minnesota AFL-CIO fully supports these protections and urges a yes vote on SF 37 to give Minnesotans an opportunity to secure them in our constitution.

Sincerely,

Bernie Burnham
President

Brad Lehto
Secretary-Treasurer

