

April 2, 2025

Dear Chair Klevorn and members of the State Government Finance & Policy Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of the **Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)** and members of our faith community all across our state to share **enthusiastic 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.

We believe every body is sacred. MUUSJA unapologetically affirms that trans people are divine, that abortion is a blessing, and that no one is disposable. Attacks on identity are a part of a divide and conquer tactic that privileges one group over another, often in dehumanizing ways that deny agency and autonomy. We must rise to challenge these attacks and ensure all persons are given opportunities to thrive.

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.

Our Unitarian Universalist faith affirms it is a moral imperative to ensure every human being has the right to live their life free from discrimination. How can anyone imagine living in an environment where some seek to diminish and even criminalize a person's very existence or ability to live in fulfilling ways? There is no law that can erase the inherent worth and dignity of each individual. But there are countless ways discriminatory actions can harm and lessen a person. Please do not let that happen.

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

With joyful resolve,

Rev. Terri Burnor,
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