



March 2, 2023

Members of the State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee  
House of Representatives  
State Office Building  
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: OPPOSE HF197 and HF173

Dear Members,

Minnesota Family Council represents tens of thousands of families across the state, and on their behalf, **we urge you to oppose HF197 and HF173, more properly titled the “Female Erasure” bills.**

Minnesotans support equality before the law for *all* Americans, not privileging males against females. Men and women already have equal protections under the 5th and 14th Amendments, and numerous Minnesota laws already prohibit sex discrimination in employment, education, housing, and many other areas.

The Supreme Court has ruled, “Neither federal nor state government acts compatibly with the equal protection principle when a law or official denies to women, simply because they are women, full citizenship stature-equal opportunity to aspire, achieve, participate in and contribute to society based on their individual talents and capacities.”<sup>1</sup> State laws cannot discriminate against women or men. This language has been tested in court and upheld countless times as the ultimate legal protection for all persons residing in Minnesota.

Rather than protecting the rights of women, these bills prohibit discrimination on “gender identity or expression” while not defining “gender” in either bill. Since the bills’ language of “gender identity” ends legal distinctions between males and females, the bill privileges males at the expense of females. Assuming these bills pass, males will have the rights to female prisons, female private spaces, and female sports teams.

If, like the original ERA of the 1970s, the revived bill used the word “sex,” few would claim that these bills were necessary in 2022 because federal and state laws already guarantee equal protection for women. **The efforts to revive these bills are not about women’s rights; these bills erase females.** These bills trade a definition of biological sex in state law for subjective “gender identity,” preventing the government from protecting female privacy rights in public accommodations like domestic violence shelters and school locker rooms, eroding designated female sports teams fought for under Title IX, mandating taxpayer funding for abortions, requiring coverage of sex change surgeries, and threatening the status of churches and religious organizations.

Women deserve better - they deserve the equal protections already granted to them by the Constitution, not erasure of those rights. They deserve legal protections based on sex, which include pro-woman legislation that would strengthen privacy protections, increase penalties for human trafficking, and ban sex-selective abortions. **Don’t erase females. Vote no on HF197 and HF173.**

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Delahunt  
Acting Director of Public Policy

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<sup>1</sup> United States v. Virginia, 518 U.S. 515 (1996).