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April 2, 2025

Dear Chairs Klevorn, Nash and committee members,

Gender Justice envisions a world where everyone can thrive regardless of their gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Step by step, we're creating that world by dismantling legal, structural, and cultural barriers that contribute to gender inequity. We work to ensure that people of all genders have a meaningful right to bodily autonomy, safety, health, and opportunity.

I am writing in support of HF 501, the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment, because now more than ever we need equal protection under the law for all Minnesotans made explicit in our state's constitution.

Our constitution is a powerful protector of people's rights. I know because we represent Minnesotans whose lives have been harmed by gender discrimination in our state courts year after year. In 2022, the Minnesota Constitution's strong protections of reproductive rights led to a legal victory — just two weeks after the fall of *Roe v Wade* — that began the process of dismantling more than five decades of restrictions on Minnesotans' rights and access to abortion care, and significantly expanding the promise of reproductive freedom statewide.

Now, with the ERA language before you, we have the opportunity to add equally strong protections against discrimination based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, and sex.

Across the country we have seen a devastating and coordinated movement to roll back the rights and freedoms of people who need abortion care; transgender people; people from other countries, cultures, and backgrounds; amongst others. We need to do everything we can within our state to stand up against these forces and live out our values of protecting freedom, equality, and bodily autonomy for all. Please support HF 501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Peterson".

Megan Peterson  
Executive Director, Gender Justice