

March 30, 2025

To: Co-Chair, Rep. Ginny Klevorn, House Government Finance & Policy Committee
Co-Chairs, Rep. Jim Nash, House Government Finance & Policy Committee

Regarding: Support for HF 501

I am writing in support of the Equal Rights Amendment which has been a priority of mine since the early 1970's in terms of improving equality for all Americans. There are other laws on Minnesota's books which prohibit discrimination, but, this newer language combines categories (except for age), and I support putting this language on the ballot of the next general election.

I worked in gender equity for the State of Minnesota for almost 30 years at the MN Department of Education and we saw much progress during that time with sexual harassment prevention, sexual violence prevention, and the addition of Ice Hockey for girls and young women for equal opportunity with the boys and young men. Over 8,000 young women participated in the sport during the first years of implementation as their interest had been there for years and finally there was an opportunity.

I understand that there is a decrease in pay for women in the last few years despite the Lily Ledbetter Act, and efforts throughout the country to make the pay for equal jobs equal between the genders, but, recent data show slippage here, despite the federal law. More progress must be made toward equality.

Equal opportunity and an end to discrimination are topics that have needed correction for over a hundred years, so, I am pleased to support your hearing on the topic and would encourage you to approve HF 501 and its language for a yes or no vote on the next general election ballot.

Sincerely,

Sue Sattel,
former Sex Equity Specialist
and Civil Rights Compliance Officer, MDE. Retired
2112 23rd Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55404 equitysue@aol.com