

## **MN ERA HF 501 TESTIMONY**

### **House State Government Finance & Policy Committee**

**April 2, 2025**

Dear Chairs Klevorn, Nash and committee members,

American Association of University Women ( AAUW) - St. Paul Chapter is an organization of women from St. Paul and surrounding communities. AAUW has been fighting for equal rights for women both nationally and at the local level for over one hundred years. Our Chapter's number one legislative priority is passage of the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment - HF 502.

We urge this committee — and this legislature — to empower Minnesotans to enshrine in our state constitution the most inclusive possible Equal Rights Amendment. At this moment - when self-determination and bodily autonomy for so many people are under attack nationally we must do everything in our power to safeguard equal rights for all in this state

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.

This ERA has widespread support from individuals across Minnesota, and the backing of labor, health, legal, reproductive justice, LGBTQ+, and philanthropic organizations. Even if you personally oppose this language we urge you to respect the will of the people and allow our citizens to vote on whether we the people want 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.

Thank you.



Sharon Klump

President of AAUW - St. Paul Chapter



Pat Dalton

Public policy committee, AAUW - St. Paul Chapter.