

1821 University Ave West, Suite 202
St. Paul, MN 55104

May 03, 2024

Dear House Rules Committee,

Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP), connects nonpartisan grassroots organizing efforts within our community and with coalition partners across the Twin Cities, together with community allies, to create a more just and equitable democracy. Our mission at AAOP is to empower young Asian Minnesotans to create systemic change for an equitable, conscious, and just society.

Many of our constituents are of marginalized identity(s) and our community has seen and felt the impact of attacks on people's rights and freedom in various levels of government. We believe that Minnesota can be a place of fairness and freedom that all are protected under the constitution. We are therefore in support of the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment (SF37, HF173), ensuring that every Minnesotan has the same exact rights under the law. It's that simple. This is an issue that impacts all Minnesotans, and without constitutional protections, it's too easy for politicians to roll back our fundamental rights. We're seeing it happen in too many places around the United States, especially marginalized communities.

Our state constitution is one of the clearest reflections of our shared values as Minnesotans. Let's write our belief in freedom, fairness, and equality into our Constitution — once and quite literally for all. Thus, Asian American Organizing Project is in full support of the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment.

Sincerely,

Linda Lelis-Her
Executive Director
Asian American Organizing Project