



May 6, 2024

Chair & Representative Jamie Long
Rules and Legislative Administration
c/o Jeanne Stuart, Committee Administrator
State Office Building Basement
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Testimony in Support of SF37 as amended

Dear Chair Long and Members of the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee,

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

LWV Minnesota urges your full support for this important opportunity to let voters choose equal rights on the 2026 ballot.

The League of Women Voters was born out of a 72 year struggle for women's suffrage, and has worked across the country for 104 years to empower voters and defend democracy. We have persisted, and are pleased to see this campaign for long-awaited equal rights grow to engage more leaders and center those most impacted by a lack of protections.

Including Equal Rights into the MN State Constitution would provide an essential tool to help women and other individuals fight back against discrimination such as unequal pay, workplace harassment, pregnancy discrimination, domestic violence, and access to comprehensive health care.

While 27 other states have already passed an Equal Rights Amendment, the Minnesota ERA is an opportunity to pass one of the strongest and most inclusive ERAs in the country. This will show the strength of our democracy and reflect our values by letting voters amend our state Constitution with the proposed ERA, which polls have shown that a majority of voters support.

A constitutional amendment ensures a lasting commitment to equality, protecting against potential rollbacks and reinforcing our state's dedication to equality under the law.

We urge you to vote YES on SF37.

Thank you for your service and dedication to Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Witte". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

Michelle Witte, Executive Director
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

mwitte@lwvmn.org - 546 Rice Street, #200, St. Paul, MN 55103