

Written Testimony in Support of ERA SF37

May 6, 2024; Minnesota House Rules Committee

Human rights are given to humans. We begin with some easy questions – are men human? Are women human? Obviously.

What about gay people, nonbinary people, pregnant women, disabled individuals, and transgender people – are they human? The answer *should be* obvious.

Human rights are afforded to humans which encompasses: people from all socioeconomic statuses, all political beliefs, and all religions; minority groups; members of all races; disabled people; the young and the old; working professionals and stay-at-home mothers; men and women born as such; men and women who identify as such; women who want to become pregnant; women who do not want to be, or become pregnant; and women who are pregnant.

Human rights are afforded – or should be – to all humans, *regardless of the characteristics or traits which comprise their personal identity or situation*. Their humanity does not change based on their identity. Humanity is determined by one thing – membership in the Homo sapiens species.

The ERA is an issue about equality among all humans, about the universal application of human rights, and about bodily autonomy, labelled a “fundamental human right” by the United Nations. The UN writes, “Bodily autonomy means my body is for me; my body is my own.” How can someone have the right to bodily autonomy if legislation tells them what to do with their own body? “My body is my own.”

Please support ERA SF37 today – support all Minnesota humans’ access to fundamental human rights.

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