



663 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST
SUITE 200
SAINT PAUL, MN 55104

PHONE 651.789.2090

January 21, 2023

Senate Judiciary Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: MDHR Commissioner Rebecca Lucero

Chair Latz and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Rebecca Lucero as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

Commissioner Lucero is a caring and compassionate leader who has dedicated her life to civil rights, and has worked for years to advance racial and gender equality in Minnesota. I know this firsthand having met Commissioner Lucero when I first joined Gender Justice in 2016 while she was a member of our board of directors. As an early board member of Gender Justice, Rebecca played a critical role in shaping the organization's mission and vision for justice and our approach to advancing gender equity through the law. We would not be where we are today without her formative leadership.

Since her appointment in 2019, Commissioner Lucero has had an immeasurable impact for the better on a breadth of the issues important to Gender Justice and our community, from race-based policing to LGBTQ+ student rights to women's rights. In 2020, under the leadership of Commissioner Lucero, MDHR collaborated with Gender Justice on a civil rights case that resulted in making Minnesota the first state in the nation to prohibit gender identity discrimination. This landmark decision declared that Minnesota schools must allow students to use locker rooms that align with their gender identity. Minnesota's youth are better able to be their full selves, to learn, and to thrive without experiencing discrimination at school.

I know that all Minnesotans benefit everyday from her tenacious commitment to justice, her compassion and integrity, and her skill in realizing the full promise of our state's Human Rights Act and values of fairness, inclusion, and equity. I look forward to four more years of her steady, thoughtful, and courageous leadership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Peterson
Executive Director