



February 19, 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of SF473

Dear Chair Latz and members of the Judiciary and Public Safety 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 support for SF473 to pass an inclusive state ERA – once and for all.

The League of Women Voters was born out of a 72 year struggle for women's suffrage, and has worked across the country for 106 more 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 impacted by a lack of protection in our state.

The Minnesota ERA would ensure 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 — for future generations.

Passing the ERA before you would empower the people of this state to enshrine our commitment to freedom, fairness, and equal rights into our constitution. After years of dedicated efforts to secure equal rights, it's time to let Minnesotans have a say in the long struggle for equality under the law.

We urge you to vote YES on SF473.

Thank you,

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

Sam Streukens, Civic Engagement Director
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

sstreukens@lwvmn.org, Landmark Center, 75 W Fifth Street, Suite 315, St. Paul MN 55102