

Oppose the Erosion of Rights Amendment

The so-called “Equal Rights Amendment” (ERA) does not foster equality for all. It provides special legal protection for some people while punishing others. Activists who proposed the current language and legislators who support it are enabling discrimination against all Minnesotans. It will threaten parental rights, harm religious liberty, and attack free speech and associational freedoms.

Every person is created in the image and likeness of God. No one should experience unjust discrimination as it is not compatible with God’s plan for human flourishing.



ERA
NO!

The ERA is a *Sword* Against People of Faith

Anti-religious hate crimes have gone up 30 percent between 2021 and 2022. Acts of vandalism against churches are also on the rise. **Yet, the proposed ERA specifically excludes religion.** An amendment in the 2024 floor debate to include religion failed, confirming that **the intent is to elevate some groups of people and their interests above the concerns of people of faith.** But in seeking to harm traditional religious believers, **proponents leave all Minnesotans more vulnerable to religious discrimination.**



Protection From Discrimination *Already Exists*

The ERA is unnecessary. For decades, laws were developed to recognize the equal dignity and treatment of males and females by prohibiting discrimination based on sex, while also respecting biological differences. **The Federal and State Constitutions, the Federal Civil Rights Act, as well as the Minnesota Human Rights Act, already ban discrimination** in a variety of contexts, including sexual orientation and gender identity. These laws also balance nondiscrimination principles with protections for free speech, free association, and religious liberty. The proposed ERA forces compliance with a false understanding of the human person that is not compassionate and threatens the authentic dignity of humanity.

Questions about the ERA? Contact Minnesota Catholic Conference:

ERA NO!

Support Women's Rights and Religious Liberty

If passed, the ERA would impact:



Religious Freedom

Excludes protections against religious discrimination for all people and provides a legal tool for judges to override religious freedoms.



Women's Rights

Invades women's sports and sex-specific settings, and abolishes sex-separated shelters and prison facilities for women.



Free Speech

Imposes gender ideology in school curricula and could attack make it discrimination to use the wrong pronouns.



Parental Rights

Threatens custody if parents disagree with their children identifying as LGBTQ+ or medically attempting to change their gender.



Conscience Rights

Erodes conscience rights for medical professionals and mandates more taxpayer-funded "gender-affirming" care.

More Potential Consequences:

- **Threatens the free exercise of religion** by elevating matters of reproductive rights and sexual expression as equal to or even more important than religious liberty.
- Faith-based schools may be **unable to teach what they believe** such as that God created us male and female.
- Faith-based organizations and schools may be **penalized for choosing not to hire** people whose viewpoints are in conflict with their mission, or **who do not live according to Church teaching**.
- **Abortion access would be constitutionally protected** with little room for sensible safeguards such as the right to waiting periods, parental notification, or necessary ultrasounds.
- **Legal action against faith communities** and schools that reject gender ideology and abortion **could increase**, potentially at the threat of losing state funding.
- Church-owned halls could be **forced to host same-sex weddings**.
- Church institutions will need to defend against **all types of new lawsuits**, including even those to **seminary admission and ordination**.
- **Taxpayers** would be on the hook for **expensive and unethical fertility treatments**.
- The Legislature would **hand over its ability to regulate the fertility industry**, making Minnesota ripe to **become a global surrogacy destination**.

Take action! Contact your legislator:
www.MNCatholic.org/action_23172

