



March 17, 2021

Dear Chairman Kasper and Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

The High Plains Fair Housing Center stands in support of the Equal Rights Amendment and against SCR 4010. As a nonprofit civil rights organization that works across the state of North Dakota to combat housing discrimination, we see firsthand unequal treatment based on sex. We receive calls, for example, from women whose landlords let themselves into the women's apartments, unannounced and uninvited, to intimidate them. We hear from domestic violence survivors whose landlords decide to evict them due to the abuse of their partners. We hear from women who are outright blocked from housing just because they are women. Sex discrimination is real and pervasive.

While our work focuses on housing, we see how much sex discrimination in other areas (wages, health care, violence, etc.) intersect in people's lives. In North Dakota, female-led households, which make up about 19% of all households, experience far greater rates of poverty than the general population. The issues that lead to this disparity are complex and deeply entrenched in our society. To combat them, we must have broad protections.

We urge you to vote NO on SCR 4010.

Respectfully,

Maura Ferguson  
High Plains Fair Housing Center

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Nothing in this letter is legal advice, for legal advice please see an attorney.