

Opposition SCR 4010

Chairman Vedaa and members of the Senate Government & Veteran Affairs Committee. I write today on behalf of my daughters, my clients, my sisters, and all the incredible North Dakotan women in this great state. I oppose SCR 4010, legislation that would rescind North Dakota's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

The Equal Rights Amendment is as critical today, and every day in the future, as it was back in 1972. Unfortunately, in our modern time, women are still not treated equally in our society. More than 50 years after the Equal Pay Act was passed, women are on average paid only 80 cents on the dollar compared to men (Women of color are paid even lower). Women disproportionately make up the population of folks living in poverty, and women are more significantly impacted by gender-based violence and other forms of harassment. I should know first hand, as an experienced social service provider and leader in the nonprofit world. In 2019 and 2020, 85% of the clients at the homeless shelter that I run self-reported being survivors of domestic violence. This is only the percentage of those willing to discuss their experiences with my team.

I am asking the Committee for a Do Not Pass recommendation. Please show our neighbors that equality is an important value.

Liz Larsen