

3/17/2021

Dear members of the committee,

Today you sit in a position of inflection. A point at which a change in direction will occur in the state of North Dakota and the message it will send out into the world depending on how you vote on Resolution 4010. A resolution which attempts to rescind North Dakota's 1975 ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. You can choose to recommend a No Pass on Resolution 4010 and send the message that women are valued and are welcome in North Dakota. Or, you can recommend a Pass on Resolution 4010 and send the message that women are less than and are only welcome in North Dakota to bear its children. As a woman, if Resolution 4010 passes, I will no longer consider myself a North Dakotan, which I am sure is no big loss in your eyes as I have borne no children for the state. But, North Dakota will also have a public relations nightmare on its hands as people and business flee the state for more welcoming locales. And, they need not go far. Minnesota is just next door and is currently moving in the opposite direction of North Dakota and advocating for an Equal Rights Amendment to the Minnesota state constitution. In which direction will you take North Dakota? I hope you choose to value women, support the Equal Rights Amendment, and oppose this offensive resolution.

Sincerely,

Tara L. Johnson
Grand Forks, North Dakota