

Dear Chair Klemen and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a DO NOT pass on HRC 3013

I have lived in North Dakota for my whole life, I met my wife in 2009 and we never thought we would be given the right to get married. We were finally able to see that as a possibility in the summer of 2015 and we have been married since September 8th 2015.

This was an important day for not only us but all people who have had that chance to get married to the person that they love.

I never thought that at age 39 I would be getting my affairs in order by filling out legal documents, such as medical power of attorney and hospital room visitor authorization forms, because in reality we don't have the same rights as everyone else. If something were to happen to either one of us the hospital could legally prevent one of us from even entering the hospital room. These are the bridges we have crossed to safeguard ourselves. Even though this isn't something normal couples have to think of to prevent being able to be close to the one you love.

Marriage should not be exclusive to only couples consisting of men and women, but for ALL who wish to have a life with the person that they love.

We have fought over and over for basic human rights, and we are still fighting. We are not asking for any special treatment, we just want what every other person gets and deserves, one of those basic things is the right to get married.

One thing we consistently hear over and over is that religiously marriage is defined by a man and women, but life is more complicated than that. We ALL belong and we ALL deserve to be happy and have the opportunity to build the family we wish to have.

Again I urge a DO NOT pass on this, and I thank you for your time.

Chelsea Gagner