



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution 3013

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
February 17, 2025

Dear Chairman Klemin and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Mark Jorritsma, and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3013 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this resolution.

In June of 2015, SCOTUS rendered a 5-4 decision in the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision that the Fourteenth Amendment requires all states to grant same-sex marriages. There have been numerous challenges to this decision since that time, and given the current composition of SCOTUS, reversal of this decision is certainly not outside the realm of possibility. However, the decision still stands today, and I will not go into the legal aspects of same-sex marriage public policy.

I would like to speak about North Dakota and our deeply held values. The family was God-ordained at the creation of the world, and it forms the foundation of our society. From families come communities, from communities come societies, and from societies come nations and their governmental structures. It has been shown over the centuries and within a multitude of civilizations that family is the basis for a flourishing culture and society.

Given our state’s expressed values in many matters of public policy in recent years, it’s safe to say that the vast majority of North Dakotans see the hub of the family wheel being the marriage of husband and wife. This was certainly the case when our country and state were founded upon Judeo-Christian beliefs. These beliefs hold that marriage was created by God and is the basis for our society. Further, we believe human sexuality was designed and intended for our good within the bond of a committed, lifelong marriage between a man and woman.

If I may use something more recent and directly applicable to this issue. Seventeen days ago, the ND Senate voted down SB 2264, a bill that essentially sought to do one thing: change

1515 Burnt Boat Dr., Suite C-148, Bismarck, ND 58503
mark@Ndfamilyalliance.org
701-355-6425
www.ndfamilyalliance.org



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

language throughout the Century Code so that marriage would be defined not only as a husband and wife who are biologically different, but also as two individuals who are of the same sex. The bill was soundly defeated with a 7-37 vote. While we would certainly never suggest that the ND House need simply follow the Senate's lead, or vice versa, we find it indicative that 84% of a ND legislative body voted consistent with the principles embodied in this resolution.

We support legislation that advocates for biblically-based marriages, and we oppose policy that encourages individuals to pursue alternative definitions of marriage, given that it undermines traditional marriage values and the family as an institution – something Obergefell has certainly done. House Concurrent Resolution 3013 seeks to reaffirm the traditional definition of marriage, consistent with that of our country's founding and consistent with the values we hold dear as North Dakotans. As a result, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you render a "DO PASS" on HCR 3013. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I'd be happy to stand for any questions.