

Thank you, Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary committee for the opportunity to give my testimony. My name is Karen Krenz, I am from District 1, in Williston, a wife of a rancher and a mother of 3 boys. I was a teacher and counselor for 23 years in ND. I am asking that you please RENDER a DO PASS on HRS 3013.

We live in an amazing country. Our Founding Fathers gave us the right to petition government for redress of grievances. Essentially giving the government, the opportunity to correct a wrong or fix a problem we have with a policy and seek change or action; this is a right protected under the First Amendment of the US constitution, allowing citizens to peacefully voice their concern without fear of punishment. This bill does just that.

The 10th Amendment for the US constitution states that powers not given to the federal government are reserved to the states or the people. There is nothing in the United States Constitution regarding the definition of marriage. Justice Thomas himself wrote an opinion on this, "In Obergefell v. Hodges, the Court read a right to same-sex marriage into the Fourteenth Amendment, even though that right is found nowhere in the text. Several Members of the Court noted that the Court's decision would threaten the religious liberty of many Americans who believe that marriage is a sacred institution between one man and one woman. If the States had been allowed to resolve this question through legislation, they could have included accommodations for those who hold these religious beliefs." Therefore, it belongs to states and the people.

Our ND Senators overwhelmingly just voted on the floor Jan. 31st, verifying, what constitutes as marriage, SB 2264, section 3 14-03-01. Marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between one man and one woman to which the consent of the parties is essential. The marriage relation may be entered into, maintained, annulled or dissolved only as provided by law. A spouse refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband

or wife. I think the state of ND has spoken loud and clear on the institute of marriage and the definition of it. We need to redress the US Supreme Court to reverse the decision and recognize the natural definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman; and insist on restoring the issue of marriage and enforcement of all laws pertaining to marriage back to the states and the people.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue and for your service to the state of North Dakota.

Karen Krenz