

Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Alex Maitheanas, and I am a community organizer with a master's degree in human rights from one of the nation's top ten recognized schools of public policy and public affairs. I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

The text of this resolution is not based in facts, or is missing significant context. For example, the text of this resolution claims that Obergefell v. Hodges conflicts with the Constitution and the definition of liberty that the framers' of the document held. However, there is no proof of the latter, and the Constitution at the time of being written was considered to be a living document anyway- meaning that it, and its interpretation, would need to grow and change as the country did. Therefore, these claims have no proof or relevant basis.

You also claim that marriage is and was only between men and women for two thousand years. This is not correct on a global scale, and never will be. Same-sex couples have always existed, with many notable examples in ancient Rome and ancient Greece. By claiming this has almost always been this way, you are erasing or ignoring history, and at the same time, ignoring how marriage and relationships are treated and viewed very differently depending on existing cultural contexts.

Furthermore, there is reference to the Declaration of Independence and that all men hold certain unalienable rights related to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If all men hold these rights, that does include gay people, and therefore, they should not be subjugated to oppression by denying LGBTQ+ people to marry- as that would be a direct threat to the pursuit of happiness- and therefore violate the unalienable rights. While you claim the judicial branch does not create policy, the judicial branch is part of the checks and balances system. The judicial branch did its role in ensuring that LGBTQ+ people could still access their unalienable rights through realizing that preventing marriage between same-sex couples would violate those rights and is not an overreach.

Due to attempted human rights violations and incorrect statements being included in this resolution, I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

Sincerely,

Alex Maitheanas