

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write to you today regarding HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3013 and ask you to vote NO on this resolution.

I recently celebrated my 22nd wedding anniversary and I feel blessed that I have had the opportunity to marry and have children. I have friends and family members who are members of the LGBTQ+ community and I am so glad that the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015, allows my queer family and friends to marry and enjoy the social recognition and many legal benefits that come from access to marriage. Limiting marriage to only heterosexual couples is simply discriminatory.

Estimates suggest there were as many as 904,000 same-sex marriages in the U.S. by 2022 (see [Jones, 2022](#)). Why would we work to invalidate these families and prevent others from being able to make the same decision? Allowing same-sex couples to marry does not impact your religious beliefs or commitments. In addition, if you value marriage, then shouldn't we work to expand and protect access to legal marriage for ALL couples, not just heterosexual couples?

Research on the benefits of access to marriage for same-sex couples shows improved psychological well-being, greater relationship stability, better physical health and expanded health insurance coverage, greater financial security, and better outcomes for children ([Karney, 2024](#)). These outcomes benefit more than individual LGBTQ+ couples - they benefit us all!

The majority of Americans support same-sex marriage. This is also true among many religious people. For example, according to the PEW Research Center, in 2022, 62% of White non-evangelical Protestants said access to same-sex marriage was good as well as 66% of Catholics. Even 62% of moderate and liberal Republicans support same-sex marriage rights (see [PEW, 2022](#)).

Given all the mounting evidence on the benefits of marriage for LGBTQ+ couples, and increasing public support, why would we work to go back and restrict access to this important legal and social status?

If we truly value marriage and family, then we ought to support marriage equality and the right to marry for all.

Please do the right thing and vote NO on HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3013.

Sincerely,

Liz Legerski
Grand Forks, ND