

To the members of the House Judiciary

I write this testimony in immense opposition to HRC 3013.

First and foremost, I find it appalling that we are spending ongoing tax payer dollars on performative measures for matters only recently settled in the country's highest court. It is a gross misappropriation of resources and nothing more than an excuse to drum up distractive conversation from real issues that need work.

Secondly, this matter has already been decided in recent history. Consenting adults that form a union in no way negatively impacts another person who is not in that union. More marriages are good for the economy-driving much needed business in North Dakota. Same sex marriage is widely supported- 71% of people nationwide support while only 28% strongly oppose according to the 2022 American Values Atlas by Public Religion Research Institute. Most of that 28% was based on a religious tenant- which given separation of church and state, cannot be the foundation of any given law.

Since the passing of Obergefell, people of religious beliefs that do not align with same sex marriage have continued to bear children, engage in society, or have their beliefs stripped from them. Every adult in this country can make a choice based on their beliefs-whether the person next to them agrees with them or not. Why take away rights from such a small minority of people- what does that really serve? Same-sex couples were 1.2% of all households with married couples in 2021, according to the latest American Community Survey data.

I cannot imagine the benefit of such a resolution to anyone. It is archaic and riddled with bigotry and fear. North Dakotans are not people who base our code of conduct on fear. If we are going to say we are a place for families, a place that welcomes, and place where people look out for one another then I urge you to give this a swift Do Not Pass recommendation.