

Testimony Opposing House Concurrent Resolution No. 3020

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I write to you today to strongly oppose House Concurrent Resolution No. 3020. While I respect the faith of those who support this resolution, I cannot support a measure that so clearly blurs the line between church and state. Our government exists to serve **all** people—of every faith and of no faith. This resolution sends a message that North Dakota prioritizes one religious belief over others, and that is not the role of government.

The strength of our country and our state has always been in its diversity. Our founders understood that freedom of religion meant freedom **for** religion and freedom **from** religion. It is a promise that each of us can believe as we choose, without fear of government interference or endorsement. This resolution undermines that promise. By declaring an official acknowledgment of Jesus Christ as sovereign, it disregards the deeply held beliefs of many North Dakotans and sends an unwelcoming message to those who do not share that faith.

And let's be honest—**a lack of religion is not the problem in our state or in our country right now**. Our communities are struggling with real, tangible issues: addiction, mental health crises, economic uncertainty, workforce shortages, and the ever-growing divide between our citizens. This resolution does nothing to address those pressing concerns. Instead, it distracts from the real work that needs to be done.

There is no shortage of faith in North Dakota. Walk into any church on a Sunday morning, and you'll see it. What we need more of is compassion, problem-solving, and policies that bring people together rather than divide them. This resolution is unnecessary, unconstitutional, and unhelpful. I urge you to reject it and focus instead on solutions that truly serve the people of this state.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kara Geiger
Mandan