

Written Testimony Opposing HRC 3020

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I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution that urges North Dakota to acknowledge the Kingship of Jesus Christ. While religious faith plays a profound and meaningful role in the lives of many North Dakotans, this resolution presents significant constitutional, legal, and ethical concerns that must not be overlooked.

First and foremost, this resolution conflicts with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, which explicitly prohibits the government from endorsing or establishing a particular religion. By officially recognizing the Kingship of Jesus Christ, the state would be taking a clear stance that aligns government policy with a specific religious belief, thereby violating the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

Additionally, North Dakota is home to a diverse population with a wide range of religious and non-religious beliefs. A government resolution that promotes one religious viewpoint over others disregards the rights and freedoms of those who do not share the same faith. This measure would alienate and marginalize members of the community who practice different religions or choose to follow no religion at all.

Furthermore, the role of government should be to ensure liberty and justice for all citizens, regardless of their religious affiliations. Rather than using legislative power to endorse a specific faith, our lawmakers should focus on policies that benefit all North Dakotans, such as improving education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

The United States was founded on the principle of religious freedom, which includes the right to practice one's faith without government intervention or endorsement. If passed, this resolution would set a troubling precedent for government involvement in religious matters and could lead to legal challenges that would ultimately burden the state.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the North Dakota Legislative Assembly to reject this resolution. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Gipson