

**February 12, 2025**

I am opposed to HCR 3020 and urge you to vote NO.

The idea that the ND state legislature would even allow a bill like this to be introduced is a waste of taxpayer dollars, time and energy.

I am a Pastor at a rural parish in Northwood, ND and my congregation members are increasingly concerned about the blurring of the separation between church and state. The Christian faith is not something to be forced on people by lawmakers. It lies with the clergy and church denominations to call people into Christ's mission to love and serve our neighbors local and abroad.

Claiming Jesus to be king of North Dakota goes against everything he preached and taught about. According to our scriptures when the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he offered Jesus the power to be king and ruler of the world and he was soundly rejected. Jesus's kingdom is not of any state, political party, or country.

A bill like this alienates all our friends of other faith traditions, and a nationalistic approach to faith is not concerned with care for marginalized groups, it seeks only power.

As a Christian leader, I implore you to vote NO on HCR 3020.

Steve DeKrey,

Minister, Northwood/Washington Lutheran Parish