

Dear Honorable Members of the North Dakota House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill Resolution 3020, which seeks to “recognize the kingship of Jesus Christ.” While I understand the personal and religious significance that such a resolution may hold for some individuals, I believe this proposal raises critical concerns regarding the separation of church and state, as well as the fundamental principles upon which our democratic society is built.

First and foremost, the U.S. Constitution guarantees the separation of church and state in the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. This clause prohibits the government from endorsing, promoting, or aligning itself with any specific religion or religious figure. By attempting to recognize the kingship of Jesus Christ, this resolution risks undermining the constitutional principle of religious neutrality, and could be perceived as an official endorsement of Christianity over other religions, which are equally protected under the First Amendment.

In a state as diverse as North Dakota, with citizens who adhere to various religious beliefs, agnostic or atheistic viewpoints, and those who practice no religion at all, it is essential that our government remains neutral in matters of faith. Any official recognition of Jesus Christ as a king could alienate and marginalize individuals who do not share this specific belief system. This divisiveness is contrary to the inclusive and pluralistic values that allow all North Dakotans to coexist peacefully and respectfully, regardless of their personal faith or lack thereof.

Furthermore, I believe this resolution distracts from the vital issues facing our state and does not address the pressing concerns of North Dakotans, such as economic development, healthcare, education, and public safety. While individuals are certainly entitled to practice their faith freely, legislative action should focus on tangible solutions that improve the quality of life for all residents, irrespective of their religious affiliation.

It is essential that we preserve the integrity of our political system, which has always functioned best when the state refrains from involving itself in religious matters. I urge you to consider the broader implications of this bill and its potential to divide our community, rather than unite it.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you DO NOT PASS House Bill Resolution 3020 and uphold the core principle of religious freedom that protects the rights of all North Dakotans, such as myself, regardless of their beliefs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Germundson