

Committee chair and members of the committee,

My name is Christopher Sprague, and I am in opposition of HCR 3020.

HCR 3020, which urges North Dakota to acknowledge the Kingship of Jesus Christ, violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. This resolution blatantly disregards the principle of separation of church and state, which is fundamental to American democracy and religious freedom.

The Establishment Clause prohibits the government from establishing an official religion or favoring one religion over others. By explicitly promoting Christianity and the "Kingship of Jesus Christ," HCR 3020 clearly violates this constitutional principle.

The separation of church and state is crucial for several reasons:

1. It protects religious freedom for all citizens, including those of the many denominations of christianity itself, minority faiths, and non-believers.
2. It prevents the government from interfering with or influencing religious practices.
3. It ensures that all Americans are treated equally under the law, regardless of their religious beliefs.

This resolution will erode the fundamental principle of religious neutrality in government. HCR 3020 represents a clear violation of the constitutional principle of separation of church and state, which has been a cornerstone of American democracy and religious freedom since the nation's founding.

Respectfully,

Christopher Sprague
Fargo, ND