

Brooke Burnett

Chairman Long Meier, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution affirming that “Christ is King.”

I come from Colstrip, Montana, but I attend college in Dickinson and have found a new home here in North Dakota—a state whose enduring Christian values have not only shaped its communities but also transformed my own life. It is here that I embraced my Catholic faith and learned the true meaning of service, justice, and love.

North Dakota has always been a state deeply rooted in faith, tradition, and strong moral values. Christianity has played a foundational role in shaping our communities, guiding our laws, and inspiring service and charity. This resolution affirms that heritage, recognizing the profound influence of Christian teachings—not just in our state, but in the very fabric of Western civilization.

While the Catholic Church has long proclaimed the kingship of Christ—especially through the institution of the Solemnity of Christ the King by Pope Pius XI in 1925—this belief is not exclusive to Catholics. Protestants, too, affirm Christ’s sovereign rule over all creation. Even within Judaism, the expectation of a Messianic King is deeply rooted in Scripture, as the Hebrew Bible foretells a ruler from the line of David who will bring justice and peace to the world. The belief in God’s sovereign rule over humanity is shared across these faith traditions.

Some may question whether this resolution conflicts with the First Amendment, but that concern is misplaced. The First Amendment protects freedom of religion, not freedom from religion. Recognizing Christ as King does not establish a state religion or compel anyone to worship in a particular way. Instead, it acknowledges the historical and cultural influence of Christianity—something our nation’s founders openly recognized. The Declaration of Independence affirms that our rights are endowed by our Creator, and our national motto remains “In God We Trust.” Even today, elected officials at every level of government take their oaths on the Bible, and our legal system is built upon moral principles rooted in Scripture.

North Dakota, in particular, has a strong Christian identity. Recent data from a 2021 Gallup poll indicates that nearly 55% of North Dakotans attend weekly religious services—significantly higher than the national average—demonstrating a profound and active commitment to faith. Here, faith is not just a private matter—it shapes our communities, inspires service, and fosters unity. Passing this resolution is not about enforcing religious doctrine but about affirming the values that have strengthened North Dakota for generations.

Moreover, the kingship of Christ is not about political rule but about truth, justice, and moral leadership. At a time when our society faces increasing division and moral uncertainty, this resolution reminds us that ultimate authority does not rest in government or human institutions, but in God Himself. It calls on our leaders and citizens alike to pursue justice, humility, and service to others—values that benefit all people, regardless of religious affiliation.

For these reasons, I urge you to support this resolution. Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.