

Representative Nico Rios

District 23 – Williston, North Dakota

Chairman Longmuir and honorable members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee, thank you for having me back here with you all today. I bring before you today House Concurrent Resolution 3020, a resolution urging North Dakota to acknowledge the Kingship of Jesus Christ. This resolution reads:

WHEREAS, Christ said all power is given to me in heaven and in earth (Matthew, 28:18), not only spiritual, but civil, including over this great state; and

WHEREAS, Christ is said to have received power, and glory, and a kingdom so that all people, tribes and tongues shall serve Him (Daniel 7:14), including this great state; and

WHEREAS, the Father is said to give to Christ all nations and the utmost parts of the earth for His inheritance and possession, and, in response, people and their leaders are called to learn and receive instruction from Him (Psalms 2:8, 10), including those in this great state; and

WHEREAS, Christ is named the ruler of Kings on earth and the King of Kings and presented with crown and royal robe (Revelation 1:5, 17:14, 19:12-13, 16); and

WHEREAS, the founding fathers of this great state begin the constitution with the words, "We", the people of North Dakota, grateful to Almighty God, and, as expressed by Reverend R.C. Wiley during the First Constitutional Convention of North Dakota, we desire there shall be a recognition of Almighty God as the source of authority; of the Lord Jesus Christ as the rightful ruler of nations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN: That North Dakota acknowledge the Kingship of Jesus Christ over all the world so that this great state may at last receive the great blessings of real liberty, well-ordered discipline, peace, and harmony

This Resolution echoes the will of our state's founding fathers. On July 15th 1889 the Representative of North Dakota's first District, R.B. Richardson from Drayton, North Dakota brought forth Filing 48 to be included in our State's preamble. File 48 read.

"We, the people of North Dakota, acknowledging Almighty God as the source of all authority, the Lord, Jesus Christ as the ruler of nations, and His will as the supreme law to which all human law should conform, do ordain this Constitution."

During the debates of the First Constitutional Convention Reverend R.C. Wiley spoke to this sentiment saying.

“In one sense the Constitution of North Dakota is already made. There is an unwritten Constitution of North Dakota in the minds of the people... And, inasmuch as our civilization is Christian, this part of the unwritten Constitution is all ready... We say that power is inherent in the people. They do not create it; it is a gift bestowed on them by the sovereign ruler. While we recognize the authority of the people, let us recognize the divine source from which that authority comes, and the Divine Ruler with whom we have to do, and the supreme law that is over us.”

To address the critics who will say citing our foundational documents is a waste of time or absurd. Christianity has played such a foundational role in our society, and acknowledging that should not be controversial. Furthermore, recognizing our heritage and moral foundations is never a waste of time. It is more important now than ever that our great state recognize our great ruler and the one who bestows upon us the blessings that the people of North Dakota have enjoyed and will continue to enjoy for years to come.

Chairman and members of this committee I know what everyone is going to ask me, so I'll get straight to the point. Why did you bring this resolution? It's a real simple answer. It is because I have only recently found God. I always considered myself to be a man of strong faith, I always believed in God. I just never had a real relationship with God. I was essentially, turned away from God. Until I came to North Dakota. I came here 11 years ago to work in the oilfields of Western North Dakota so I could make some money. A lot has happened to me in these last 11 years, too much to list that's for sure, but the culmination of these 11 years of me living in this beautiful God fearing state we call North Dakota has resulted in me coming home to Jesus. Coming home to find Christ and making the decision to get confirmed into the Roman Catholic Church this Easter. This is the single greatest thing I have ever done or will ever do. So I just wanted to bring this Resolution forward to say thank you to North Dakota, I couldn't have done it without you.

As for the constitutionality of this resolution, I'd like to refer all questions to my friend Cristian Wagner, or as I call him Chrissy Wags. I now stand for any questions.