

Do Pass Testimony of Susan Draper, Citizen of North Dakota on HCR 3013

Chairman Klemin and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this reading.

I firmly believe that marriage between a man and a woman is not only a fundamental institution but is also rooted in the principles of our Constitution. From the founding of our nation, the legal and moral framework of marriage has been recognized as a union between a man and woman, designed to provide stability for individuals, families, and society as a whole.

The Constitution does not explicitly define marriage, but historically, both state and federal laws have upheld the traditional definition of marriage as between a man and a woman. This understanding is based on the foundational belief that marriage serves a unique purpose: to unite a man and a woman in a committed relationship that often leads to the creation and nurturing of children. This natural family structure has been recognized as the cornerstone of a stable and prosperous society.

Furthermore, the Tenth Amendment grants states the power to regulate marriage laws, and for much of our history, states have overwhelmingly defined marriage as between one man and one woman. Even when the federal government has intervened, such as with the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 1996, the intent was to preserve the traditional understanding of marriage as it had always been recognized in American law.

The Founding Fathers established our nation on principles of natural law, which aligns with the biological and social realities of marriage. The idea that marriage is between a man and a woman was not seen as controversial but as essential for maintaining a strong, moral, and structured society. The stability provided by this union ensures that children are raised in environments with both a mother and a father, which research has shown to be beneficial for their development.

While legal interpretations of marriage have changed over time, I stand by the belief that the original design and intent of marriage—both in law and in practice—should be honored and upheld. The Constitution was created to safeguard the values that make our nation strong, and marriage between a man and a woman is one of those foundational values.

For these reasons, I would ask for a do pass for HCR 3013 a union between a man and a woman, as it aligns with the principles of our Constitution and the moral framework upon which our country was built.

Susan Draper

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