

**Statement of Support for Senate Bill 2264**

**1/26/2025**

**Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,**

I strongly support Senate Bill 2264, which modernizes North Dakota's marriage laws to reflect equality and inclusivity by recognizing marriage as a civil contract between two individuals, regardless of gender. By updating terminology to use gender-neutral terms like "spouse" instead of "husband" and "wife," this bill ensures our state laws align with federal protections for same-sex marriages and affirm the dignity of all married couples.

Marriage is a deeply personal commitment, and everyone deserves the right to have their union recognized and respected under the law. Senate Bill 2264 strengthens this principle by removing outdated language and making our laws more inclusive. It reflects our shared values of fairness, equality, and respect for all individuals and families in North Dakota.

I urge the Committee to give this bill a Do Pass, demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that every couple, regardless of gender, is treated equally in the eyes of the law.

Sincerely,

Kara L. Geiger  
Mandan, ND