

North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee
North Dakota Legislative Assembly
600 E Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505

January 27, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Anastassiya Andrianova. I am a 43-year-old woman, wife of 15 years, and mother of a 6-year-old daughter. I write **in support of SB 2247** – a bill to amend the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of marriage and the recognition of marital relationships.

I fully agree with Senator Ryan Braunberger, who represents Fargo’s District 10 and is the sponsor of this bill. Sen. Braunberger states: “These [proposed] changes aim to modernize our legal language and align our statute with the various relationships in North Dakota. This will also bring us in line with the Federal Respect for Marriage Act that was signed into law in 2022. [...] **this bill is not just about changing words; it is about changing lives.** It is about ensuring that our laws reflect the values of **equality, respect, and dignity** that we hold dear. By embracing these amendments, we send a clear message: **North Dakota is a state that values fairness and recognizes the humanity of all its citizens**” (emphasis added).

The North Dakota Century Code is meant to represent the rights of ALL the citizens of our state, whose cohabitation relationships and definitions of “spouse” or “partner” may vary based upon their individual religion, ethnicity, and other personal beliefs. Please adopt the changes that actually reflect our citizenry and make everyone feel seen, heard, and welcome.

Vote DO PASS on SB 2247.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anastassiya Andrianova, teacher, woman, mother, and concerned ND citizen
District 11 - Fargo, ND