

Catherine Benton

SB 2264

January 28, 2025

I am writing to express my strong support for 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.

As a straight, cis-gender woman married to a straight, cis-gender man for over 15 years, I can't imagine my life without my husband by my side. Our marriage has allowed us to build a loving life and family together. I wish for every individual, regardless of their sexual orientation, to have the same opportunity to experience and celebrate this kind of deeply personal commitment.

Senate Bill 2264 strengthens the principle that everyone's union should be recognized and respected under the law by removing outdated language and making our laws more inclusive.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.

Thank you for your consideration.

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