



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 2264

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
January 29, 2025

Dear Madam Chair Larson and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Mark Jorritsma, and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in opposition to Senate Bill 2264 and respectfully request that you render a “DO NOT PASS” on this bill.

This bill essentially seeks to do one thing: change language throughout the Century Code so that marriage is defined not only as a husband and wife who are biologically different, but also as two individuals who are of the same sex. In June of 2015, SCOTUS rendered a 5-4 decision that the Fourteenth Amendment requires all states to grant same-sex marriages. There have been numerous challenges to this decision since that time, and given the current composition of SCOTUS, reversal of this decision is certainly not outside the realm of possibility. However, I will not go into the legal aspects of same-sex marriage public policy, since I am not a lawyer and there are individuals far better qualified to address these issues.

I would like to speak about North Dakota and our deeply held values. The family was God-ordained at the creation of the world, and it forms the foundation of our society. From families come communities, from communities come societies, and from societies come nations and their governmental structures. It has been shown over the centuries and within a multitude of civilizations that family is the basis for a flourishing culture and society.

I believe it’s safe to say that the vast majority of North Dakotans see the marriage of a husband and wife as the hub of the family wheel. This was certainly the case when our country and state were founded upon Judeo-Christian beliefs. These beliefs hold that marriage was created by God and is the basis for our society. We believe human sexuality was designed and intended for our good within the bond of a committed, lifelong marriage between a man and woman.

We support legislation that advocates for biblically-based marriages, and we oppose policy that encourages individuals to pursue alternative definitions of marriage, given that it undermines traditional marriage values and the family as an institution. Senate Bill 2264 is just such legislation. As a result, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you render a “DO NOT PASS” on Senate Bill 2264. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and I’d be happy to stand for any questions.

Mark Jorritsma
Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action