

# Opposition to North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013)

North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013) is a misguided and harmful attempt to undermine the constitutional rights of same-sex couples and challenge the landmark *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision. In recent polling in the state of North Dakota, commissioned by the North Dakota News Cooperative, only 36% of North Dakotans support the overturning of same-sex marriage. There is something profoundly and morally wrong with our legislation when they seek to openly defy the will of the residents of the state, such as what we're seeing with the introduction of this small-minded and regressive bill.

This resolution, which seeks to redefine marriage as a union exclusively between one man and one woman, is not only an attack on the LGBTQ+ community but also a direct violation of the principles of equality, civil rights, and legal precedent.

To state it plainly, the presence of this bill is in direct defiance of the will of the people in North Dakota (with 66% of North Dakotans in support of upholding the 2015 Supreme Court ruling) and, on a personal note, as a straight white woman, I can't think of a single moment in time (**not one**) where the marriage between two same-sex people has **ever** inhibited my ability to lead a full and happy life. ***In fact, it's absolutely none of my business who someone wants to marry.***

What I will say is that bills like 3013, which aim to undermine fair and equal rights for everyone, directly affects my happiness and takes time away from my family having to draft responses to the lunacy. Not once has the presence of a same-sex couple in my community ever taken time from my loved ones, but this narrow-minded bill—along with many others recently introduced—certainly has. Rehashing these decisions is a flagrant waste of taxpayer dollars and our valuable time.

While I understand Representative Tveit represents Hazen North Dakota, a city of just under 3,000, I wonder what considerations he has given to the financial impact of this bill to our service industry in larger areas like Fargo and Bismarck? Beyond the economic implications, what does this bill say about North Dakota as a whole? That we're an unwelcoming state with archaic beliefs? Consider the broader impact, which I've outlined below:

## **Discrimination and Harmful Consequences**

HCR 3013 fosters discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals and sends a harmful message that their relationships are invalid or inferior. Marriage equality is not simply a symbolic issue; it

has real-world implications for families, including rights related to healthcare, inheritance, adoption, taxation, and social security benefits. **Attempting to strip away these rights would cause direct harm to thousands of legally married same-sex couples and their families in North Dakota and beyond.**

Additionally, this resolution could open the door to further rollbacks of civil rights, setting a dangerous precedent for undermining other Supreme Court rulings that protect marginalized communities. It also places North Dakota in opposition to the majority of Americans who support marriage equality, as reflected in national polling data.

## **Economic and Social Implications**

Beyond its legal and ethical failings, HCR 3013 would have significant negative economic consequences. North Dakota businesses, particularly those seeking to attract and retain a diverse and talented workforce, would struggle to compete in an increasingly inclusive and progressive job market. Companies and investors often look for states that embrace diversity and nondiscrimination policies, and passing a resolution like HCR 3013 would deter economic growth and development in the state.

**Moreover, the mental and emotional toll on LGBTQ+ individuals—particularly youth—cannot be overstated.** Studies consistently show that policies and rhetoric that invalidate LGBTQ+ identities contribute to higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among this community. North Dakota should be working toward inclusivity and support for all its residents, rather than enacting measures that foster exclusion and harm.

## **Conclusion**

HCR 3013 is a regressive and discriminatory resolution that seeks to roll back the progress made in ensuring equal rights for all Americans. The Supreme Court has already affirmed that marriage equality is a constitutional right, and no state should attempt to undermine this fundamental freedom. North Dakota lawmakers should reject this resolution and instead focus on policies that promote equality, inclusion, and economic prosperity for all residents.

We call on the North Dakota Senate to oppose HCR 3013 and stand on the right side of history by upholding the values of fairness, dignity, and legal equality for all individuals, regardless of whom they love.