

Dear Chair Larson and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a DO NOT pass on HCR 3013, a resolution that seeks to undermine the fundamental human rights of same-sex couples in North Dakota. As a lifelong resident of this state, I've seen firsthand the impact of discriminatory policies on our community.

My wife and I have been together for 15 incredible years, and we were finally able to get married in 2015 after the Supreme Court's landmark decision in Obergefell v. Hodges. This September, we'll be celebrating 10 years of marriage with a vow renewal ceremony, a testament to the enduring power of our love.

Growing up in a Catholic household, I was taught to treat every person with kindness, dignity, and respect, regardless of their differences. It's this values-driven approach that guides my opposition to HCR 3013. By seeking to redefine marriage as solely between a man and a woman, this resolution would strip away the basic human rights of same-sex couples, undermining the very fabric of our community.

North Dakota has long been known for North Dakota Nice hospitality and North Dakota Be Legendary spirit. Yet, by advancing this resolution, we risk sending a harmful message that our state only welcomes those who conform to a narrow, outdated definition of marriage. I urge you to consider the real-life consequences of this resolution and the devastating impact it would have on families like mine.

Instead of supporting discrimination, I urge you to stand up for the rights and dignity of all North Dakotans, regardless of their sexual orientation. Vote against HCR 3013 and send a powerful message that our state values love, equality, and justice for all.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,
Chelsea Gagner