

Subject: Opposition to HCR 3013 – A Threat to Marriage Equality and Basic Rights

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013, which seeks to petition the Supreme Court to overturn marriage equality. As a resident of North Dakota, I have had the privilege of meeting many LGBTQIA+ individuals who contribute immeasurably to our communities. They are our teachers, healthcare workers, business owners, first responders, neighbors, and friends—people who make North Dakota a better place for all of us. By advocating for a ban on marriage equality, this resolution sends a cruel and unjust message that these valued members of our state are not welcome here.

Marriage is a fundamental right, and attempting to strip that away from a specific group of people is a dangerous overreach. This resolution does not simply target marriage equality—it sets a troubling precedent for what rights could be revoked next. If the state can deny LGBTQIA+ individuals the right to marry, what is to stop future challenges to interracial marriage, interfaith marriage, or other personal freedoms that have long been recognized as essential to our democracy?

History has shown us that legislating discrimination does not strengthen communities; it divides them. The Supreme Court has already ruled on this matter in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, affirming that love, commitment, and family are not privileges to be granted to a select few but rights that belong to all. Reopening this debate does nothing to serve the people of North Dakota. Instead, it puts our state on the wrong side of history, tarnishing its reputation as a place that values fairness and equality.

At a time when North Dakota should be focusing on economic growth, education, healthcare, and infrastructure, it is disheartening to see lawmakers prioritize efforts to strip rights away from law-abiding citizens who simply want to live their lives in peace. The LGBTQIA+ community is not harming anyone by marrying the person they love—so why should our state seek to harm them?

I urge you to reject HCR 3013 and stand for the principles of freedom, equality, and dignity for all North Dakotans. We are stronger as a state when we uplift each other rather than tear each other down. Please do not allow fear and discrimination to dictate our laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration.