

TO: ND Judiciary Committee

FROM: Kathy Marquette

DATE: March 8, 2025

SUBJECT: HCR 3013

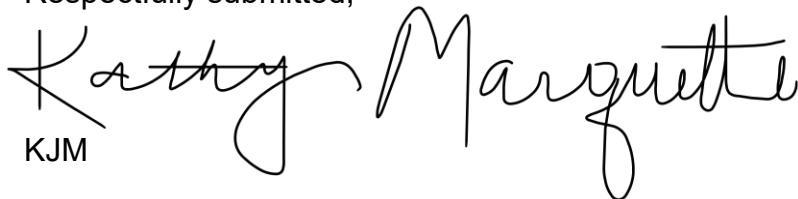
Members of the North Dakota Judiciary Committee, the purpose of this memorandum is to provide written testimony *in opposition to HCR 3013* urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

Having been in education for 31 years in the state of North Dakota—2 years at the secondary level and 29 at the post-secondary level, I have had the opportunity to work with a diverse cross-section of students over my career. Each student--male or female--gay or straight, is blessed with many talents and abilities. If a student knows that I respect him or her as a person and want them to succeed, and if that student is willing to work and learn, there is no limit to what a student can achieve!

Love is a feeling that all people should and can experience. I have no authority to tell someone whom they should love, nor should anyone else. Somehow, we've lost sight of this; many people in our state as well as other states feel they have the right to determine this. Love knows no boundaries and doesn't distinguish between color, sex, education level or income level. My oldest brother and my godson are both gay. They are extremely talented men who have decided to love someone of the same sex. Do I understand their love for one another completely? No, I do not. I also do not understand certain people's love for each other who are heterosexual. The point is, I have no right to determine this and no one else should have that right either. We have so many more important issues that need our immediate attention such as education, medical programs, services and infrastructure, taxes, the economy, childcare, etc. Please don't take away the right of an individual to decide who to love. Would you want that for yourself, your children, or your grandchildren?

Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony in opposition of HCR 3013. I genuinely hope you take it into consideration.

Respectfully submitted,


KJM