

Date: March 3, 2025  
RE: HCR 3103

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013. This resolution is not only blatantly discriminatory and undermines fundamental principles of equality and fairness, but it is also a meaningless gesture that wastes energy, time, and resources.

HCR 3013 is a non-binding resolution. It has no legal effect and will not overturn a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The U.S. Supreme Court is not bound by the opinion of the North Dakota legislature. This resolution serves only to express an opinion, not to enact any real change. This makes this resolution a waste of time and taxpayer resources. To suggest that the U.S. Supreme Court would overturn a settled matter of constitutional law based on a state resolution is ridiculous.

While HCR 3013 may be completely inconsequential, its message is deeply damaging. It sends a clear message to same-sex couples living in North Dakota: that their elected officials do not recognize their families as equal and that their fundamental rights are subject to political or religious whims.

This resolution creates an atmosphere of fear and anxiety for same-sex couples and their children, undermining their sense of belonging and security in their own state. It tells same sex couples, that the North Dakota legislature wishes to remove their legal marriage rights. This is a cruel and needless attack on North Dakota families.

This resolution is a direct insult to the loving and committed same-sex couples who have built their lives and families in North Dakota. It tells them they are second class citizens.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees equal protection under the law. This resolution flies in the face of that constitutional principle. To heartlessly deny same-sex couples the fundamental right to marry is just that: heartless. This is not just a legal matter; it is a matter of basic human dignity.

The right to marry is a fundamental human right. To deny this right to same-sex couples is a blatant form of discrimination that infringes upon their dignity, autonomy, and the very fabric of their families.

Marriage is a cornerstone of family life. Same-sex couples in North Dakota form loving, committed families and deserve the same legal recognition and protection as heterosexual couples. HCR 3013 seeks to undermine those families.

Denying same-sex couples the right to marry has tangible negative economic consequences, including reduced economic security for same-sex families and lost revenue for the state.

Children raised by same-sex couples deserve the same legal protections and stability as children raised by heterosexual couples. HCR 3013 would create legal uncertainty and inflict harm on these children.

While some religious institutions may hold specific beliefs about marriage, it is crucial to uphold the separation of church and state. Religious beliefs should not be used to justify discriminatory laws that infringe upon the fundamental rights of others.

Societal norms around marriage have evolved, and will continue to evolve. Legislators should reflect the current reality of society, not cling to outdated prejudices.

This resolution is a discriminatory and harmful attempt to undermine a settled U.S. Supreme Court ruling. It disregards established legal precedent, violates fundamental human rights, crosses the line of separation of church and state, and undermines the well-being of families and communities in North Dakota. I urge all ND Senators to reject this resolution and uphold the principles of equality, justice, and basic human decency for all North Dakotans.

Andy Bertsch  
District 5 Resident  
Minot, ND 58701