

## Testimony in Opposition to HB 3013

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 3013, which urges the United States Supreme Court to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges* and redefine marriage exclusively as a union between one man and one woman. This resolution is an affront to the principles of freedom, equality, and the separation of church and state, and it threatens the happiness and stability of countless loving families.

The Declaration of Independence declares that all individuals are endowed with the unalienable right to pursue happiness. For many Americans, this pursuit is intimately tied to the freedom to marry the person they love. This resolution seeks to strip that right from same-sex couples, forcing them into a second-class status and undermining their pursuit of happiness.

Furthermore, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. By codifying one narrow religious view of marriage into law, this resolution blatantly disregards the diverse beliefs held by people across North Dakota and the United States. It imposes religious doctrine through legislative action, violating the separation of church and state.

The United States Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* upheld the fundamental right to marry, recognizing the inherent dignity of same-sex couples. To overturn this decision would not only unravel the rights and protections of LGBTQ families but would also set a dangerous precedent allowing the erosion of other fundamental rights.

Moreover, this resolution fails to acknowledge the real and measurable harm it would inflict upon families in our state. It would destabilize households, delegitimize parental rights, and subject countless children of same-sex couples to legal uncertainty. To advance such a measure is to willfully inflict harm upon North Dakota families who deserve love, stability, and legal security.

I implore the members of this legislative body to reject HB 3013. Upholding the principles of liberty, equality, and religious freedom requires us to protect — not undermine — the rights of all families. Let us stand firmly on the side of love, inclusion, and the pursuit of happiness for every North Dakotan.

Respectfully,

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