

# Letter in Opposition to HCR 3013

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I write to you today to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013, the proposed concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman. This resolution is not only a step backward in the fight for equality and human rights but also a measure that would have profound and damaging consequences for many North Dakotans.

Firstly, passing HCR 3013 would directly undermine the validity of existing marriages between same-sex couples. These marriages, legally recognized and protected, provide not only a bond of love and companionship but also essential legal rights and protections. By redefining marriage in a way that excludes same-sex couples, the State would effectively strip these individuals of their marital status, leading to a cascade of legal complications and emotional distress. Rights to joint property, parental recognition, and inheritance would be compromised, leaving couples in a precarious and vulnerable position.

Furthermore, this resolution would profoundly affect the end-of-life decisions and rights of same-sex couples. Currently, legal marriage ensures that spouses can make critical medical decisions for each other, have hospital visitation rights, and provide comfort and support during the most challenging times. Without recognized marital status, same-sex partners may be denied access to their loved ones in hospitals, left out of critical health care decisions, and even lose the ability to plan funerals and memorials according to their wishes. The emotional toll and practical difficulties arising from these scenarios are both cruel and unjust.

In the case of death, the implications are even more severe. Surviving spouses in same-sex marriages could lose their entitlement to spousal benefits, social security, and pension benefits, which are vital for their financial stability. They could also face legal hurdles in inheriting property and assets that they shared with their deceased spouse, leading to potential loss of their homes and financial security. The grief of losing a loved one should not be compounded by the uncertainty and insecurity brought about by retroactively invalidating their marriage.

HCR 3013 does not just affect the legalities; it sends a damaging message to the LGBTQ+ community that their love and commitments are somehow lesser, unworthy of the same recognition and respect as heterosexual marriages. This is a dangerous precedent that

fosters discrimination and inequality, undermining the progress our society has made toward inclusivity and acceptance.

I urge you, as representatives of all North Dakotans, to consider the far-reaching and devastating consequences of HCR 3013. Rejecting this resolution is not only a stand for equality and justice but also a protection of the rights and dignities of all married couples, regardless of their gender.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this critical matter. Let us continue to move forward, together, in the spirit of fairness, love, and mutual respect.

Sincerely,

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