

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013, a resolution that seeks to undermine the fundamental rights of same-sex couples in North Dakota.

I am a lifelong resident of the Bismarck/Mandan area, and it wasn't until same-sex marriage was legalized in 2015 that I became aware of the importance of marriage in general. You see, up until that point I thought it just a piece of paper. I did not see how that could affect how much two people loved each other.

It was then that a complete stranger told me that while he understood where I was coming from, marriage is a whole lot more than just a piece of paper. Without that piece of paper, if my partner were to become seriously ill, I would not be able to be in the room. If my partner were unable to make decisions for themselves, I would not be able to help in that situation.

Without that piece of paper, the "family" that has not accepted who my partner is or who they love will get to make these decisions, and I will have absolutely no say in carrying out the wishes of my partner, no matter what they are, because I would have no legal say in the matter. Yes, there are ways around this, power of attorney and whatnot, but this is 2025! People should be allowed to love who they want and marry who they want. I do not understand how we can have something for 10 years, something that has not harmed one single soul, and then just try to take it away!

I understand that everyone has different beliefs and stands differently on certain issues, but I think we can agree that EVERYONE deserves love!! If you do not believe in same-sex marriage, then do not marry someone of the same sex, but I beg you to PLEASE not stand in the way of my being with the person I love.

I just do not understand how North Dakota can be a place that legalized same-sex marriage, let us have Pride on the Capital lawn, but now suddenly wants to take away our right to marry! Everyone deserves to be happy, and I just don't understand how any two people getting married, whether they are gay, straight, or anything in between affects any other person! How does me marrying a woman affect you in your everyday life? I don't believe it does, so please PLEASE do not pass HRC 3013

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Brandee Burger