

My name is Kellee Hann and I am writing today to strongly oppose House Concurrent Resolution 3013, which seeks to define marriage in North Dakota as solely between a man and a woman. This resolution is not only discriminatory and regressive—it is unconstitutional, harmful to citizens, and contrary to the fundamental American values of freedom and equality.

First and foremost, the United States Constitution guarantees a separation of church and state. The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibits the government from enacting laws rooted in specific religious doctrines. HCR 3013 is a clear example of a law influenced by religious ideology rather than secular governance. Marriage, while it may hold religious significance for some, is a legal institution regulated by the state. The state has no authority to impose religious definitions on civil rights or to legislate morality through a specific theological lens.

This resolution directly contradicts the U.S. Supreme Court's 2015 ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which affirmed that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court made it clear that denying marriage to same-sex couples is a denial of dignity, liberty, and equal protection under the law.

Further, laws like HCR 3013 do not simply codify a definition—they send a dangerous message that some citizens are less deserving of equal rights and recognition than others. This fosters a culture of discrimination, stigma, and harm, particularly to LGBTQ+ youth who already face disproportionate rates of depression, homelessness, and suicide. Government policy should be used to protect people—not marginalize them.

Let me be clear: love is not a threat to society. Committed relationships, regardless of gender, contribute to stronger families and communities. When two people choose to build a life together—raising children, supporting each other, contributing to their neighborhoods—our laws should support them, not restrict them.

To legislate who can love and who can marry is to deny the basic human dignity and freedom that all Americans deserve. As citizens, we do not all share the same faith, but

we all live under the same Constitution. Our laws should reflect liberty and justice for all—not the personal beliefs of some.

I urge this committee to reject HCR 3013 and uphold the constitutional promise of equal rights, fairness, and freedom for every North Dakotan, regardless of who they love.

Thank you for your time and consideration.