

Chairperson and members of the committee,

There are several bills and resolutions which have been proposed this session that I feel passionately about. However, HCR 3013 is the proposal I feel most passionately about and am beseeching you not to support. As the parent of a member of North Dakota's queer community and the friend (and hopefully ally) to many in the LGBTQ+ community my heart broke when HCR 3013 narrowly passed the ND House of Representatives and I hope that I and other North Dakotans don't have to experience that heartache again.

However, rather than appeal to your emotions I want to take this opportunity not to instead try to lay out some logical reasons not to support this resolution.

- As elected officials, you took an oath to uphold not just the ND constitution, but the United State's Constitution. The 2015 Supreme Court ruling said that the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution allows for any consenting adults to marry one another. If you send a message that you do not wish to uphold this Amendment it could put our state on a dangerous path.
- Financially, HCR 3013 does not benefit ND in any way. As a matter of fact, it could actually harm ND by 1.) Keeping people from wanting to live in the state and 2.) Reducing the stream of income from marriage ceremonies and celebrations.
- Further, HCR 3013 is essentially pointless. It makes a statement, but just barely. It is unlikely that a handful of states passing similar resolutions will cause a Supreme Court ruling to be overturned. Meanwhile, every hour spent discussing this is time you are paid when you could be working on more important issues that benefit North Dakotans.
- Several Representatives who responded to my messages said that the resolution didn't prevent people from being in relationships with those they love and they reiterated that there was "no hate" in their hearts. Sadly, their hearts didn't seem to feel compassion for the wife who can't be with her partner in the ICU or hospice nor did their hearts consider what it would feel like for a husband to not be able to financially support his partner through his workplace benefits. It may not be hatred to keep same-sex couples from having the same tax benefits as you and I, but it does seem to be cruelty. These are all possible scenarios if Obergefell v. Hodges is overturned which is the primary point of this resolution.
- Finally, this resolution is an overreaction. Marriage is not strengthened nor weakened by the relationships of others. If people feel their marriage is made less by the marriage of others then this seems like an opportunity for them to reflect on their relationship and consider counseling not try to encourage laws to be changed and supreme court decisions overruled.

Please do not support Resolution 3013. I relocated my family back to North Dakota in 2012 aftering being away for more than 10 years and the support my elected officials have shown this resolution has embarrassed me and hurt me. Its passing in the House moved me to look for possible relocation outside the state and my child is now applying to colleges outside of North Dakota. Seeing the ND Senate stop this resolution would give us all hope and be a positive step toward keeping people in North Dakota.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet B. Anderson
Burlington, ND