

Birgit Pruess, Ph.D.
3696 Harrison St. S
Fargo, ND

March 9, 2025

RE: HCR3013

Dear members of the 69th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

I am a resident of Fargo, ND. Please, accept the below as my testimony IN OPPOSITION of HCR3013, “A concurrent resolution “urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.”

I am personally not a member of the LGBTQIA community, but unique in many other ways and have some impression of what I means to be different. However, what I see my LBGTQ friends, students, and colleagues go through is beyond my wildest imagination. I get it, some people think freedom of religion is more important than freedom from religion, disregarding the fact that not everybody adheres to the majority religion. Or any religion, as a matter of fact. I do not think that anybody should force their religion onto others, especially in the case of LGBTQ members who do not hurt anybody and do not impact the life of anybody other than themselves. We are living in a world today where hate is the predominant feeling that most people appear to enjoy and thrive on. What is so ‘bad’ if someone wants to love a person? And what difference does it make to you, the reader of this testimony? You can still marry the heterosexual love of your life without restriction if your neighbor makes a different choice.

I think very strongly that the decision by the United States Supreme Court in Obergefell v. Hodges, 135 S.Ct. 2584 (2015) was the only correct solution to a problem that should not be a problem. I also do not see the disagreement with the 10th amendment. Furthermore, there were 39 testimonies in response to this resolution for the House. Of these 39, 9 were in favor, and 30 in opposition. That is a strong popular vote against the resolution. And yet, the House chose to disregard these constituents and decided IN FAVOR of the resolution. Intriguingly, some of the yay voters expressed their regret for their vote afterwards and I give them credit for this. I encourage the Senate to give full consideration to the will of the people of North Dakota, as well considering the rights and freedoms of a population that is already having a difficult life.

I highly recommend a DO NOT PASS vote on this resolution that will hurt many of my friends if passed.

As in all my testimonies, I much appreciate the hard work and dedication that each member of my state legislative assembly puts into our state. Thank you.

Sincerely and respectfully Birgit Pruess,
Ph.D.