

I am writing in opposition to bill HCR 3013 defining marriage between one man and one woman. I think it's insane that in 2025 we are even talking about this and that our state voted to move this bill forward. I have lived in this area my whole life and I love this state, but I do not agree with our government on this issue. We are going backwards. I teach my kids to love and respect everyone no matter what their sexual preference is. People's sexual preference does not affect anyone else. Nobody is telling you to be gay, nor should you be able to tell someone to not be gay. Religion needs to stay out of politics. We don't all have the same beliefs and that is okay. That is what makes America great- we have the right to choose who we want to be, who we want to love and what we want to believe in without fear that those rights may be taken away. What if we questioned your straight marriage, imagine how hurt and angry you would be if you legally had to divorce your spouse, and your children were no longer considered yours all because of who you love. Imagine that you may lose your medical benefits because you are not legally married. Gay people are not the problem. The problem is our government trying to control people and creating a division between people, all based on your own personal beliefs. We live in one of the greatest countries- home of the free where people should not be afraid to love the people they want to love. I did not serve my country for 6 years in the military to have North Dakota try to dictate people's personal lives. We have murders, sicknesses, suicides, homeless people, drugs, families who can't afford school lunches and are sleeping on the streets and you are worried about two people of the same gender loving each other and being happy? REALLY?

DO BETTER NORTH DAKOTA.

Signed,

A straight, religious, white woman who is very disappointed in the people I helped chose to run this state.

-Ashley Ross