

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013), which seeks to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman. I urge you to vote "Do Not Pass" on this resolution for several important reasons.

Firstly, HCR 3013 is a direct challenge to the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which recognized the constitutional right of same-sex couples to marry. This landmark ruling affirmed the principles of equality and non-discrimination, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the right to marry the person they love. By attempting to overturn this decision, HCR 3013 undermines these fundamental principles and promotes inequality.

Secondly, the resolution fails to recognize the diverse and inclusive nature of our society. Marriage is a deeply personal and significant commitment that should be accessible to all consenting adults, regardless of gender. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry not only discriminates against them but also sends a harmful message that their relationships are less valid or worthy than those of opposite-sex couples.

As a gay individual who has lived in North Dakota for my entire life I have experienced firsthand the importance of acceptance and equality. I have contributed meaningfully to our community and believe that everyone deserves the same rights and recognition, regardless of their sexual orientation. Promoting inclusivity and equality is also crucial for attracting and retaining young people in North Dakota. Ensuring that our state is welcoming to all individuals will help us build a vibrant and diverse community that encourages young people to stay and contribute to our state's growth.

Furthermore, HCR 3013 does not align with the priorities and values of the people of North Dakota. Our state has made significant progress in promoting inclusivity and acceptance, and this resolution represents a step backward. It is essential that our laws reflect the principles of equality and justice for all citizens, and HCR 3013 fails to do so.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the negative implications of HCR 3013 and vote "Do Not Pass" on this resolution. By doing so, you will uphold the values of equality, non-discrimination, and inclusivity that are essential to a just and fair society.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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District 40