

March 10, 2025

To the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I write to you as an incredibly proud alumna and benefactor of the University of North Dakota and a member of North Dakota United which represents Faculty and Staff at UND to express my personal opposition to HCR 3013 and ask your committee to give it a “do NOT pass” recommendation and vote NO on this resolution. This resolution really serves no purpose other than to show the rest of the nation (and the world) that North Dakota is unwelcome and intolerant to some of the brightest minds in the world.

I was born and raised in Langdon, ND. The daughter of a first-generation American whose father immigrated to the United States as a baby and started a small business that is still thriving nearly one-hundred years later. My life as an LGBTQ+ individual in North Dakota hasn't been easy, yet I am so proud to have been born here and had the privilege to earn a PhD from one of our public institutions. Since the House passed this resolution, I have received personal messages from friends and colleagues across the US, Canada and as far away as Norway asking if this is really happening here, in their North Dakota.

I currently serve as the chair for the LGBTQ Faculty and Staff Association at UND. This fall, I sent out a survey to members and I asked them to voluntarily respond to an impact survey on what they contribute to the University. Fifteen LGBTQ+ members responded, and those fifteen people have brought in approximately \$19,000,000 in outside funding to the University of North Dakota, a portion of which goes to the University for administrative costs. That list also includes numerous publications and examples of service to Grand Forks, the State of North Dakota, the region, and the nation.

Passing resolutions that have a negative impact such as this one that makes North Dakota an unwelcoming state will make it very difficult to recruit, train, and retain the most gifted and talented individuals in their fields. I have shared the results of this self-survey with members of the judiciary committee and am more than willing to share that information with each of you.

Should this resolution pass, is sent to the United States Supreme Court, and the United States Supreme Court ultimately decides to overturn

Obergefell v. Hodges, what happens? Currently North Dakota has a pause on an appeal of their Gay Marriage Ban. Does this mean that North Dakota will automatically be spending another large amount on lawsuits that it could be spending in other places, for things that don't cast us as an unwelcoming place? What is the price that you are willing to spend to defend bigotry? Bigotry that does not belong in North Dakota and, as we have seen in the past couple of weeks, the majority of North Dakotans do not support and do not want.

It is for these reasons, I respectfully ask your committee to give HCR 3013 a "do NOT pass" recommendation and encourage committee members to vote NO on this resolution.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bridget Brooks