

I am writing to you in opposition of HCR 3013 to re-define the definition of marriage to between a man and a woman.

One thing should be crystal clear to the members of the Senate, should they consider passing this resolution. Nothing stops any of them from suing or from attempting to bring such a challenge to overturn Obergefell v. Hodges before the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court would never take up such a challenge, because not a single person in the US has standing. Nobody has been discriminated against by the right to equal marriage. Nobody has ever been harmed by someone else getting married. There are only two ways that do not discriminate against anyone: Have a right to marry for everyone, or for nobody. I urge you to entertain this thought experiment: If you're married to a member of the opposite sex, and were to be treated the way a same-sex couple would be treated without the right to marry, you would lose all the legal benefits and protections. You would lose your tax breaks, the right to be informed on your partners health should they be in an accident and end up in a hospital, make medical decisions for them, protections after getting divorced, spousal and survivors benefits through Social Security, inheritance rights, lower insurance premiums. Your partner will be as closely related to you by law as any stranger off the street. If you think this is a fair treatment based on sex and your partner's sex, you should be willing to suffer the same penalty. Should the decision on same-sex marriage fall back to the state of North Dakota, you will have to answer these questions in the following legislative sessions and in court. You will have to answer why some citizens of North Dakota get to enjoy these benefits, and some don't, solely based on their sex or their partner's sex.

In addition, the committee should feel encouraged to research in which countries same-sex marriage is legal, and where it is illegal. They might find that the U.S. does not need to join countries such as Iran and Russia if it deems itself the leader of the free world.