

First off, I want to applaud Rep. Austin Foss for having the courage to speak out on the House floor. He showed a tremendous amount of bravery amongst the many homophobic colleagues, that, moments later, voted to invalidate his marriage.

**I STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY & ALL LEGISLATION THAT SEEKS TO BAN SAME-SEX MARRIAGE.**

Anti LGBTQ+ views are antiquated, no longer relevant in today's day and age and are a ridiculous distraction, not to mention a huge waste of tax payer's money. It's yet another bill to promote division, discrimination, bigotry and hatred. Must we continually make LGBTQ+ people feel unwelcome and thus, flee our state? Is this what we want North Dakota to be known for?

If this bill passes, exactly how do legislators plan to invalidate every same-sex marriage?

No matter what happens with this bill, I will never believe that my sister's marriage, my friend's marriage or the numerous cousins that are married, will ever be considered invalid. Furthermore, I already love my son's future husband – the one he has yet to meet and marry – the one we pray for.

Anyone with an ounce of intelligence knows that people do not “choose” to be gay. You aren't going to change them using conversion therapy methods. And you surely won't be able to pray the gay away. Some Christians use the phrase “hate the sin, not the sinner” so they can sound nicer about hating people. My swift and immediate response is, “Hate the belief, not the believer.”

Love is something worth fighting for and I refuse to stop fighting for what is right. It's time to protect everyone's right to love who they want.

I urge you to reject any legislation that seeks to restrict the right to marriage based on sexual orientation. Let us stand together to uphold the principles of equality and justice for all.

Wouldn't it be great if North Dakota's mission statement were this? →

**North Dakota, we must do better.  
Vote No on HB3013.**

With hope,

Susan R. Long  
Berlin, ND

**IF YOU ARE...  
INQUIRING, SEARCHING, SAVED,  
BLACK, BROWN, YELLOW, WHITE,  
GAY, STRAIGHT, SURE, UNSURE,  
OLDER, YOUNGER, PEACE-FILLED,  
PAIN-FILLED, ABLE-BODIED OR  
DIFFERENTLY-ABLED...NO MATTER  
HOW MANY MOMS OR DADS  
OR DIVORCES OR KIDS OR  
CHROMOSOMES OR FAILURES  
OR SUCCESSES OR QUESTIONS  
OR PROBLEMS YOU MAY HAVE...  
NO MATTER YOUR POLITICAL  
STANCE OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS,  
NO MATTER YOUR GENDER  
OR STATUS OR WHERE  
YOU ARE WITH THAT...  
YOU WILL ALWAYS  
BE ACCEPTED HERE.**