

As a public health researcher, my main focus has been suicide prevalence and prevention. Currently, North Dakota ranks in the top 5 for most suicides per 100,000 people in the U.S. ([CDC, 2023](#)). Suicide is also highly prevalent in LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, who attempt and complete suicide at much higher rates than the general population ([Trevor Project, 2024](#)). LGBTQIA2S+ individuals are at higher risk for mental health challenges, due to many factors including discrimination ([NLHEC, 2018](#)). Eliminating same-sex couples' right to marry would create a sense of alienation for these individuals, which would increase mental health challenges and suicidality.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chandler Tobeck, MPH