

This testimonial is written in opposition to house bill HCR3013. This is regarding the state urging the Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage equality as being between one male and one female. I am writing as a personal friend to multiple individuals who would be negatively effected by the processing of this bill, and current healthy and thriving family units would be dismantled. This would result in an increase in individuals needing services for extreme mental distress, as well as children going from a healthy two-parent home to a one-parent home and custody issues. The first couple I know to be affected by this bill are two women who have been happily married and active participants in our community. They have raised three children and recently completed all necessary steps to officially adopt their final child who was born through the incredible technology of IVF. The second couple I know are in the process of planning their wedding ceremony, and have fought many odds to make their relationship a possibility. Their marriage does not hinder or poorly affect anyone in our community, and does nothing but provide joy and promote acceptance. As a born and raised resident, Our state has upheld a reputation on being "North Dakota nice" for my entire life. The introduction of this bill causes me great fear that we are headed in a direction that tarnishes that reputation, and only leads to division and hatred. I urge the senate to oppose this bill in order to uphold a virtuous state that is known for it's acceptance and love of all people.