

The proposed resolution in North Dakota that opposes same-sex marriage is an blatantly disrespectful and is a huge step backward in the state's progress towards equality and justice. This resolution fails to reflect the values of fairness, inclusion, and respect for the rights of all individuals. It is shameful to live in a state that is even considering this as a law and would devastate many people that I love and care about. There are several key reasons why this resolution should be opposed.

1. Violation of equal rights. The proposed resolution directly undermines the fundamental principle of equality, which is highlighted in both the U.S. constitution as well as North Dakota's commitment to justice and fairness. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry discriminates against them based on their sexual orientation. This discrimination sends a harmful message to North Dakotans and others in the country that their love and/or relationships are viewed as less valuable or legitimate than others. Every person, regardless of who they love, deserves the same legal recognition and protections under the law.
2. Legal Precedent and Supreme Court Rulings. The U.S. Supreme Court landmark decision in "Obergefell v.Hodges" (2015) affirmed that same-sex couples have the constitutional right to marry. This ruling ensured that marriage equality is the law of the land, protecting the rights of millions of same-sex couples across the country. Any resolution that seeks to oppose same-sex marriage is in direct conflict with the Supreme Court's decisions.
3. Impact on LGBTQ+ individuals. This proposed law sends a message that their relationships are less than and not valid. Living somewhere that doesn't value who you are can have extensive damaging effects on mental health, community cohesion, and overall well-being. A state maintaining a stance against same-sex marriage would perpetuates inequality and hinders progress for the LGBTQ+ community.
4. State Resources Should Support All Individuals and Families. The state's resources and protections should be focused on supporting all families, not discriminating against certain types. Same-sex couples, much like heterosexual couples, should have every right to build families, raise children, and contribute to their society. These couples will persist regardless of the law, because they existed before the Supreme Court ruling in 2015, however, this resolution risks depriving these families of important legal protections such as inheritance, health care, tax benefits, and spousal privileges. These couples' tax dollars should go to resources that they can access and use for support, and should not be used against them. I do not want my tax dollars to be used against love, regardless of the type of love.
5. Setting Back Social Progress. North Dakota, much like a lot of the country, has made significant strides in advancing civil rights and human dignity. Supporting a resolution that opposes same-sex marriage represents a dangerous reversal of progress. North Dakota would be seen as out of touch with their values of fairness, equality, and respect.

The state would face negative attention, and negative economic impacts as companies, residents, college students, and tourists increasingly prioritize social justice and inclusivity.

Please, do not pass or support the resolution that fails to protect the rights of marriage for all in the state of North Dakota. This proposed law goes against the U.S. Supreme Court decision, but also against the principles and values of equality, justice, and fairness. I hope that North Dakota can continue in its progress towards inclusion, and that this resolution is rejected in favor of a more just, compassionate future for all.