

Good afternoon chairman Klemin and members of the judiciary committee,

I am writing to you all today to urge you not to pass HCR 3013.

As a mother of two young boys, I want them to grow up in a world of love and acceptance. Passing this resolution not only violates North Dakota citizen's fundamental rights but sends a message that some love is less valid. That's not the lesson I want for my children.

Marriage is about commitment and choice. Denying that to same-sex couples is un-American and fuels stigma, contributing to higher rates of depression and isolation in LGBTQ+ communities. Policies rooted in fear, not love, divide us.

I want my boys to see a North Dakota that lifts people up, not tears them down. Love is love, and everyone deserves happiness and belonging. Being a good parent and a good human means teaching acceptance. By not passing this resolution, you can do just that.

Thank you for your time,

-Joelle Schmuck