

March 10, 2025

In Opposition to HCR3013 – Recommending a **DO NOT PASS** vote

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR3013. As someone who was born and raised here in North Dakota, I have a deep connection to this state, and its values. On my mom's side, I come from a long line of ranchers who settled here decades ago. On my dad's side, my family's journey is one of resilience – my grandparents, my dad, and his siblings chose to make North Dakota their home after escaping the devastation of war-torn Vietnam.

Growing up here, I spent my days running through open prairies, walking along the Missouri River, and stargazing beneath our expansive skies. My pride in this state runs deep, and it is a place I will always consider home. It is deeply troubling to me that my home state is even considering anything like HCR3013, especially when there are far more pressing issues that deserve attention.

Marriage equality does not harm anyone. Who I love, how I live my life, or what I believe should not be anyone else's concern but my own, and the people who are closest to me. It is baffling and honestly quite unsettling that anyone would feel it is their place to judge me based on who I love, especially when they've never met me and probably never will. This is my life, and my choices are mine to make.

While HCR3013 may not have an immediate legal effect, its message will be loud and clear to all those it targets, both inside and outside of North Dakota. It would send the wrong message to the world at large and to the very people we hope to attract to our state. We tout our North Dakota Niceness and invite people to visit and experience our friendly, welcoming communities. How can we expect to foster that spirit of inclusion if we continue to exclude certain groups of people based on something as deeply personal as their love or identity?

It's deeply unfortunate to witness my home state turning its back on so many people over something that affects such a small fraction of the population. A "NO" vote on this resolution would signal unity and a progressive step forward, something I know some may fear, but something that could ultimately make North Dakota a better place for everyone, not just a select few.

Let's be clear – leaving marriage equality as it stands doesn't affect anyone who doesn't wish to engage with the LGBTQ+ community. You don't have to attend Pride, you don't have to support same-sex marriages, and you don't have to interact with us at all. Just

like we don't have to interact with you, your religion, or your life. All we ask is that we are treated with the same kindness, respect, and humanity that everyone deserves. That's all we need – to be seen as people, trying to navigate life the best way we can.

North Dakota is a place of great beauty and great heart, and I ask you to reflect that in the way we treat all people, regardless of who they love or how they identify. Please stand for kindness and respect. Please vote "NO" on HCR3013.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Christensen, born and raised gay North Dakotan