

I write in opposition to HCR-3013.

Growing up in North Dakota in the 80s and 90s, I found my home state to be so welcoming. People were friendly, polite, helpful, yet kept to themselves. I honestly didn't know who my parents voted for because it wasn't a big deal and not something you needed to talk about.

I moved away for 20 years and came back 3 years ago to a different North Dakota. Now, my home state is full of hate and in-your-face demonstrations of people not being welcome. This resolutions is an example of that hate.

I'm not gay, but I always thought that if I were, I would be welcome in North Dakota. I went to high school with some kids who were gay and I always thought that the people who bullied them were just afraid that they, the bulliers, might actually be gay. Is that what is going on here? The people who are in favor of this resolution are nervous that they might be gay? Why would you try so hard to make people feel so unwelcome?

I won't spend a lot of time trying to convince you about basic human rights. By supporting this bill, it's evident that you don't care.

So I'll try to demonstrate the impact in other ways.

Economically, gay people and those who support them support the North Dakota economy by spending millions a year. If you continue to alienate people who stand for human rights, you are risking the North Dakota economy.

Personally, I have gay friends who visit me each year. They visit me because they love and care for me and believe me when I say that North Dakota is a good place, despite what they hear on the news. If this resolution passes, I can no longer ask my friends, gay or otherwise, to visit North Dakota. I would seriously consider moving, as well. Why would I want to surround myself with people who, so forcefully, want you to know that if you are gay, you are not welcome? You may say that it's just saying gay people can't get married. But why do you care so much about that? Let's make North Dakota great again by instilling some of our values I grew up with: keep to yourself. Don't worry about who loves who if it doesn't affect you.

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