

Denise Dodd,  
Regarding HCR 3013  
March 11th, 2025.

Hello, my name is Denise Dodd. I am a born and raised North Dakota citizen and resident. I am a participant in my community, volunteering and working in behavioral health and human services.

I am writing in opposition of the House Committee Resolution 3013, which urges the United States Supreme court to restore the previous definition of marriage to a union between one man, and one woman. This definition comes from biblical texts, with references from Matthew 19:5, and Genesis. I respect an individual's right to religious freedoms, and it is one of the things that makes this country wonderful. However, our laws should not be enshrined with religious definitions of what should and should not be. We are a free nation to make our choices, marriage included. If two people consent and vow and sign their certificate with witnesses, the marriage should be recognized.

Marriage is a beautiful thing in all of its forms as we know it to be, with one woman and another, a man and another man. Love is a gift we choose to give to each other, and we should not encourage language to limit how two consenting adults love one another. It harms no one to keep the definition as it is, however it can harm those who find themselves outside of the definition outlined above. No one deserves to be on the outside of a definition based on religious pretext they may or may not participate in.

I grew up with two women who are married to each other, and their dedication to each other and love for us has been a cornerstone of my life as I grow to adulthood and look to possibly share the title of marriage with someone. I have seen men who have married another man share just as much love as one man and one woman in an old folks home as they smile at each other as they reminisce about their lives together.

I have heard love stories from all sides of the definition of marriage and it gives me hope as I move to find a partner for myself, that I can find someone as dedicated and doting as those I've seen around me. In the future, I may be a woman who loves another woman and wishes to marry, or I may be a woman with a man. Either way I deserve to be recognized and accepted. My mothers deserve to be accepted and not excluded by the law. The lesbian couples, the gay couples, they all deserve the same dignity as one man and one woman, as they love each other and share the bond of being couples by law.

I thank you all for your time and consideration. I hope that my plea that I oppose this resolution assists in showing that this is a near and dear topic to the hearts of many constituents and North Dakota citizens.