

In Opposition to HCR 3013, A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman

March 11, 2025

Dear Senators of the Judiciary Committee:

I am a North Dakota resident, a father, an educator. I am heterosexual. I am a Unitarian Universalist, a volunteer at charitable events, a coach, a consumer. In every single one of these contexts, I oppose this concurrent resolution. It is an inappropriate injection of religious belief into law, it is contrary to the goal of marriage as a contract between society and two individuals, and it rejects the humanity of our brothers and sisters, our children, our neighbors.

Marriage is both a legal contract and a religious tradition. This body has zero rights and responsibilities to be involved in religious traditions save to pass legislation ensuring the First Amendment of the United States Constitution is protected. This body definitely has a responsibility to ensure that marriage, as a legal contract, is advantageous to North Dakota citizens individually and as married couples, and to the state as a whole.

In that context, this continuing resolution is farcical. It would catastrophically impede same-sex couples' ability to adopt children, thus leaving the burden to care for these children on the state's foster care system. It will make it much harder for partners in a same-sex relationship to process the affairs of their deceased partner, increasing the burden on probate courts. It will burden our law enforcement officers; instead of being able to release information to their fellow citizen about that person's spouse, they must harden their hearts and deny such information. There is literally not a single way in which defining marriage as between "one man and one woman" is advantageous to the state. Conversely, in almost every way possible, defining marriage thusly is **disadvantageous** to same sex couples.

In other words, this resolution is a solution in search of a problem.

This continuing resolution is inhumane. It explicitly discriminates against some North Dakotans. It makes the lives of our neighbors and friends harder for no societal gain whatsoever.

Finally, this continuing resolution sends this message: North Dakota does not want anyone who is not heterosexual to live here.

Senators, this continuing resolution is bad policy. It represents the worst of human motivations. It is antithetical to American values. It is intrusive. It is harmful. It should not be supported. I implore you to unanimously recommend the Senate DO NOT PASS this resolution.

Joseph Kennedy  
Fargo, ND