

Opposition to North Dakota Resolution 3013

Presented by Nicole Morrison

Chair Larson and Committee Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, 69th Legislative Assembly.

My name is Nicole Morrison, and I come before you today not only as a North Dakotan, but as a wife, a mother, and a believer in the fundamental values of love, family, and equality. I stand in strong opposition to Resolution 3013, which seeks to delegitimize Obergefell v. Hodges—the ruling that affirmed the right of same-sex couples to marry nationwide.

This resolution is not just a political statement; it is a direct challenge to the dignity and security of families like mine. My wife and I have built a life together rooted in love, commitment, and shared responsibility. We are raising children with the same values that every parent hopes to instill—kindness, integrity, and a belief in the goodness of people. Our marriage is not a political debate. It is the foundation of our family, the home where our children feel safe, and the promise we made to one another to face life's joys and struggles as a united front.

Like any other family, we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. We teach our children to be kind to their neighbors, to dream big, and to contribute to their community. We hold each other up in times of hardship. We are not an abstract concept. We are real. We are here. And the love and commitment we share are no different than that of any other married couple.

For the state of North Dakota to suggest that our marriage—our family—should never have been recognized is deeply painful and unjust. This resolution does not just erase legal protections; it seeks to erase the legitimacy of our love in the eyes of the law. But love is not a privilege afforded to only some. It is a right, a fundamental human experience that should be protected and celebrated, not called into question.

There are countless families in North Dakota just like mine. Families who want nothing more than to live their lives in peace, to be seen and valued, to raise their children in a community where they are treated with dignity. If this resolution moves forward, it sends a message that our marriages—our families—are somehow less worthy, less real, less deserving of the rights and recognition others receive without question. Is that really the side North Dakota wants to be on.

I ask you today: What legacy do we want to leave? Do we want to be a state that lifts up its families, that recognizes love in all its forms, that stands on the side of freedom and equality? Or do we want to be a state that moves backward, denying rights and protections to families who have done nothing but love one another?

I urge you to stand on the side of love, on the side of families, and on the right side of history. Please reject Resolution 3013.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nicole Morrison