

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 3013, which seeks to repeal marriage equality in North Dakota. As a concerned citizen of this state, I urge you to vote **no** on this resolution.

Marriage equality was not only a historic victory for LGBTQ+ rights but also a recognition of the fundamental right of every North Dakotan to love and marry the person of their choosing, regardless of gender. In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that marriage equality is a constitutional right, and it is imperative that we, as a state, continue to honor and uphold that right.

Repealing marriage equality would harm countless couples and families here in North Dakota, undermining their legal protections and sending a harmful message to the LGBTQ+ community. Our state should be a place that values fairness, love, and equality, not one that moves backward in time to exclude and marginalize its citizens.

North Dakota has made strides in becoming a more inclusive and welcoming state. Repealing marriage equality would take us in the wrong direction, diminishing the progress we've made toward creating a fairer society. I strongly believe that all people, regardless of whom they love, deserve the same rights, dignity, and respect under the law.

Please vote **no** on HCR 3013, and stand with the values of justice, equality, and love that make North Dakota a great place to live for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will make the right choice in support of all North Dakotans.

Angie Schmidt Benz

District 8