

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

After seeing HCR 3013 pass in the House, I was left shocked. It is hard to fathom that the state I love and call home could even entertain this resolution, a resolution that very much sounds like bullying. Bullying is defined as abuse and mistreatment of someone vulnerable by someone stronger, more powerful, etc. Government taking away rights from a minority group seems to be just that, bullying. All people should be entitled by law to basic human rights, such as the right to be treated well. How can our state stand for denying acknowledgment of same-sex marriages, when that is a clear act of discrimination, when we have so many Federal laws against discrimination? People in favor of this resolution often argue that the Bible disapproves of homosexuality; however, the Bible also disapproves of divorce. Can we really pick and choose parts of the Bible that some see fit and implement them into legislation? Denying the ability to marry and only recognizing Civil Unions instead is not acceptable. Civil Unions do not carry from state to state, therefore stripping benefits and rights from those individuals. Studies published in Science News and the Journal of American Medical Association state that genes play a role in sexual orientation. How can we be ok with discriminating against someone for genetic predispositions? How can we say that one group of people is less-than another? Rather than picking parts of religion to dictate our laws, should we not simply get back to basics? The Golden Rule should help lay our foundation. Treating ALL others as we would want to be treated.

I strongly urge a DO NOT PASS recommendation on HCR 3013, so we can keep human rights intact.

Thank you for your consideration,
Cari Lippert and Family