

To the members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to you today in strong opposition to HCR 3013.

Before I speak to this specific bill's potential for damage, I first want to relay my extreme disappointment in how much time and energy has been spent in this year's legislative session on performative measures. At best, these measures have highlighted how deeply steeped some legislators are in dangerous, extremist ideology, and at worst, these measures have encouraged the spewing of hate toward fellow North Dakotans. There are much more important initiatives and efforts that we should be spending our time on.

Now onto this specific bill. I am strongly opposed to this bill that urges the Supreme Court to overturn the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision and return the issue of marriage equality to the states. A Gallup poll from 2020 showed that nearly 70% of Americans support marriage equality. Since the *Obergefell* decision in 2015, over 500,000 same-sex couples have married across the United States, and the stability, legal recognition, and protection of their marriages have had significant positive impacts on their families. According to a 2019 report from the Williams Institute, the economic contribution of same-sex couples in the U.S. was estimated at \$1.7 billion annually. Reversing *Obergefell* would not only affect the personal lives of these individuals but would also disrupt the social and economic stability of thousands of families across the country.

If North Dakota were to pass this bill and make this statement, you are telling the estimated 2.7% of LGBTQ+ North Dakotans along with LGBTQ+ families across the US that they are not welcome here and that their families are not worthy of protection. We need to be setting North Dakota up to be a state that families want to move to and stay in, and with the majority of Americans, and North Dakotans, supporting same-sex marriage, North Dakota's decision to make a step backward would assuredly impact the decision of families to choose North Dakota as home in the future, including mine.

Thank you for your consideration, and again, I urge a DO NOT PASS.