

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HCR 3013. I strongly believe that North Dakotans aspire for our state to be a safe and welcoming place for families and young people to build their lives. It is imperative that we uphold the values of kindness and inclusivity that we pride ourselves on. Resolutions like HCR 3013, and other anti-LGBTQIA+ bills strive to target and hurt members of our communities. That is unacceptable.

I am increasingly concerned that our legislators are disregarding these values by enacting legislation that targets and marginalizes a specific community. Our state's ability to recruit and retain professionals is crucial, and creating a hostile environment for any group makes North Dakota an unsafe place. As a heterosexual, cisgender, white woman, I feel that North Dakota is not a safe space for those who differ from me. This is not the message we want to convey, especially given the volatile and hateful national rhetoric. I hope that our Democrat, Independent, and Republican legislators recognize this and understand that we do not want such divisive rhetoric in our state. We want to attract people by demonstrating the values of North Dakota.

Moreover, I have serious, research-based concerns about the implications of this legislation. Studies show that over 40% of LGBTQIA+ youth have considered suicide. Imagine the pain these young individuals experience when faced with hateful rhetoric and state-sanctioned discrimination. As a parent of three active and strong students, I am deeply committed to their well-being and happiness. These bills endanger not only my children but also their peers, making our state a perilous place to live. I cannot imagine that any legislator truly desires such outcomes for our state.

Lastly, I want to share a poignant discussion my family had over dinner. We reflected on how our society could have progressed further if historical injustices such as slavery, Native American genocide, and war had been avoided. The loss of life, skill, energy, and knowledge has undeniably held us back. Similarly, this legislation threatens to stifle a whole community, pushing our society backward. Every individual has something valuable to contribute, and I firmly believe that North Dakotans want everyone to be included and valued. Please reflect on the direction we want our state to take and whether we will succumb to the angry and cruel national rhetoric.

I urge you to be the voice of reason and compassion by voting in opposition of HCR 3013

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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