

Dear Chair Larson and the Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am writing to urge a “Do Not Pass” on HCR 3013.

This resolution is extremely harmful and hurtful to so many of our fellow North Dakotans. I firmly believe HCR 3013 is an injunction against the religious liberties our great country affords us. Additionally, marriage as an institution has changed culturally throughout time and the insistence that *Obergefell v. Hodges* “arbitrarily and unjustly rejected the definition of marriage,” is troublesome.

I have always believed every American deserves the right to marry a partner regardless of their gender, biological or otherwise. I emphasize to you, the Judiciary Committee, the importance of freedom for the people of North Dakota and put into question HCR 3013’s emphasis on liberty. HCR 3013 only serves to push an agenda that limits the autonomy of individuals at the behest of the government. When the governmental entitlements of marriage are afforded to some but not all on the basis of something as arbitrary as gender, then all men are not created equal.

Furthermore, HCR 3013 disenfranchises the youth of America from successful and prosperous futures – the dream of building a family with legal recognition is a right all should be entitled. I know we all want the future generations of North Dakota to grow up happy, healthy, and hopeful to give back to their communities, but HCR 3013 severely impacts their ability to do so if they no longer have the equal opportunity to obtain a marriage license regardless of their romantic partner choice. I would hate to see the future children of North Dakota robbed of that freedom.

As a lifelong resident of North Dakota, I urge the Judiciary Committee to vote “DO NOT PASS” on HCR 3013. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Jayce Branden