

Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I respectfully submit my opposition to the House Concurrent Resolution 3013, which calls for the United States Supreme Court to restore the legal definition of marriage as exclusively a union between one man and one woman.

While I respect the religious views that inform this position, I must emphasize the importance of marriage as a civil institution. The legal recognition of marriage provides significant rights, benefits, and protections for all couples, including those related to taxation, inheritance, healthcare, and parental rights. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry effectively denies them access to these critical legal and economic protections. This is not just a matter of personal belief, but of ensuring fairness and equality under the law.

The Obergefell v. Hodges decision was a step forward in securing the civil rights of same-sex couples, ensuring that they, too, have the legal recognition and protections afforded to opposite-sex couples. Without the right to marry, same-sex couples may be excluded from important government benefits—such as joint tax filings, access to family health insurance, Social Security benefits, and the ability to make medical decisions for one another—placing them at a distinct disadvantage in society. Additionally, the lack of legal recognition can create uncertainty for children of same-sex couples, who may face challenges with custody or inheritance rights.

Furthermore, the argument that marriage is inherently about procreation disregards the fact that many marriages, regardless of the sexual orientation of the partners, do not involve childbearing. Marriage, in its fullest sense, is about the recognition of a committed relationship between two people, and the legal benefits associated with it should not be restricted to one specific type of union.

I urge you to recognize that the legal definition of marriage should reflect inclusivity, equality, and the fundamental rights of all individuals. Upholding marriage equality is not only a matter of dignity for same-sex couples, but it also ensures the protection of legal rights and societal benefits that contribute to the well-being of all families.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Christina Feldmann

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