

Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013 - urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman. I believe that this resolution undermines fundamental principles of equality, personal freedom, and the progress our society has made in recognizing the dignity and rights of all individuals.

The Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) was a monumental step forward in recognizing the inherent dignity of same-sex couples and their right to marry. This decision affirmed that marriage is not a privilege to be granted selectively, but a fundamental right guaranteed to all people, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Reversing this decision would roll back the rights of millions of Americans and perpetuate harmful discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community.

Marriage is a personal and intimate decision that should be guided by love, respect, and commitment, not by government-imposed definitions. The United States was founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all, and efforts to restrict who can marry based on outdated and discriminatory views run contrary to these values. By denying same-sex couples the right to marry, we are telling them that their love and families are less worthy of recognition and protection under the law.

Moreover, restoring a definition of marriage as solely between one man and one woman would have serious negative consequences for countless families. It would jeopardize legal protections for same-sex couples and their children, affecting issues such as inheritance, health care, and adoption. These families deserve the same rights, respect, and recognition as any other family.

In addition, such a resolution would signal to future generations that discrimination based on sexual orientation is acceptable. It would send a message that some people are less deserving of equal treatment simply because of who they love. We cannot allow such divisiveness to undo the progress we've made in fostering a more inclusive and fair society.

I urge this committee to reject this resolution and stand firmly in favor of equality, fairness, and justice for all Americans. Let us continue to embrace the diversity of our nation and protect the rights of every individual to live and love freely without fear of discrimination.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my opposition to this resolution.

Sincerely,

Sean Payette

Concerned Fargo Resident