

**To the Honorable Members of the Senate,**

I am writing to you not just as a concerned citizen, but as a father. A father to a daughter who is 20 years old, a young woman who is thoughtful, hardworking, and deeply compassionate. A daughter who also happens to be a lesbian.

As a computer programmer and an active contributor to my community, I work every day to solve problems, to build systems that create solutions, and to ensure that people have access to the tools they need to succeed. But no amount of code, no line of logic, can make sense of the cruelty behind this proposed legislation.

This bill, which seeks to restrict marriage to only between one man and one woman, is not just an outdated idea—it is a direct attack on my daughter's future. It tells her that her government does not recognize her as equal to her peers. It tells her that the love she will one day find and commit to is less valuable, less real, and less worthy of legal protection.

I cannot accept that. And neither should you.

My daughter is not an abstract political debate. She is a person. She is my child. And she deserves the same rights as any other person in this country. Passing this bill will not strengthen families—it will tear them apart. It will tell parents like me that our children are not valued, that their futures are not worth protecting, and that their happiness matters less.

I ask you: what is gained by taking away rights from those who only want to love and be loved? What purpose does this bill serve beyond exclusion? If the goal is to protect families, then let's protect *all* families—including the ones built by LGBTQ+ individuals who deserve to marry and be recognized just like anyone else.

As a father, I will not stay silent while my daughter's rights are put up for debate. I urge you to vote against this bill and stand on the side of justice, equality, and the future we should all want for our children.

Sincerely,

Ken Grigsby  
1305 N 14th ST  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-400-0381