

Dear North Dakota Senate Representatives,

My name is Joelle Klabo, I reside in Horace, North Dakota. I am writing this testimony in opposition to HCR-3013, a concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

I have struggled to find the words to put into this testimony since the decision came from the House of Representatives late last month. This is not something I have ever imagined myself having to do or wanting to do. Although this is viewed as just a concurrent resolution in legislature and a posturing for "voter base support", this is a message to the entire people of America that we do not want equal rights for all people in North Dakota. Fundamental principles within our own country's founding documents, The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, even cite fundamental rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Support of this bill goes directly against those basic unalienable rights. Happiness does not look the same for everyone that walks this earth. Happiness does not mean the same thing across all people. Reasons for supporting this resolution such as political affiliation or religious affiliation do not justify the support of removing rights from a certain group of people for who they love, human rights should never be political and religious views do not belong in the state but need to stay within the church. People just want to be happy in a world that continues to spread hate no matter who you are.

I am a normal 28-year-old woman who goes to work every day, supports my family, and supports my community. My partner and I are not pushing our views on people, and we accept others for who they are no matter what. At the end of the day, we just want to be left alone to live a life that is full of love and share life's simple but precious moments together while having the same rights as others.

I hope that the Senate group can reflect on how you would feel if you were in a position similar to this. Perhaps the law did not accept or recognize your marriage on the basis of age difference, race differences, or religious differences. How would that make you feel?

I have faith in the common sense of the Senate that you will know this does not help our state in any way, it will only divide us more.

Best Regards,

Joelle