

Dear Members of the North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR3013, which seeks to urge the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

Marriage is a deeply personal and significant commitment that should be accessible to all consenting adults, regardless of gender. The notion that marriage should be exclusively between a man and a woman is rooted in outdated and discriminatory beliefs that have no place in modern society. It is discriminating against our friends, families, neighbors and your colleagues in the legislature. It will send a message gay people that they are not welcome in our state, a view that is not held by the majority of North Dakotans.

In addition to the moral and social implications, it is important to consider the legal rights and benefits that marriage confers. Marriage is not, in fact, a gift from God. It's a legal commitment between consenting adults that has implications in everyday life of North Dakotans. Married couples enjoy numerous legal protections and benefits, including:

- The right to inherit a spouse's property upon death.
- The ability to file joint federal and state tax returns, which can result in significant tax benefits.
- Access to a spouse's health, car, and liability insurance at family rates.
- The right to receive a spouse's Social Security, pension, worker's compensation, or disability benefits.
- The ability to make medical decisions on behalf of a spouse in emergencies.
- The right to sue for a spouse's wrongful death or loss of consortium

I urge you to consider the harmful implications of HCR3013 and vote "do not pass" on this resolution. By doing so, you will be affirming your commitment to equality, justice, and the protection of civil rights for all North Dakotans and affirming the legal rights of married couples in our state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Austin Cote

District 27 constituent.