

March 11, 2025

Thomas French
Fargo ND
District 44

Chair Larson and Members of the North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HCR 3013. I grew up in Mapleton, ND, attending Mapleton Elementary, West Fargo High School, and graduating from NDSU in 2013. My husband and I have been raised in this community and have lifelong connections with the people we've met. We live close to our grandparents, parents, siblings, and five of our nieces and nephews. We recently got married and chose to stay in North Dakota because of our love for this community and the support we feel here.

After reading HCR 3013, I am deeply hurt by the implication that our marriage undermines anyone else's. Churches still have the right to define marriages as they see fit. However, the Supreme Court's decision in Obergefell v. Hodges ensures that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the right to marry the person they love. It is painful to feel unsupported by the state we grew up in and where our family continues to grow. Raised in the Catholic faith, I was taught to respect everyone and listen with an open heart. This resolution would harm couples and the future of North Dakota as more valuable residents seek a state that welcomes them.

Same-sex couples should be able to experience culture and religion equally and not have to watch others experience joy and fulfillment from the outside looking in. Our families and friends were there to witness our vows, just like any other wedding and now if this resolution passes we face difficult decisions whether we feel safe to live here or not. My husband and I are in our mid-thirties and have heard every justification for being treated differently, but none change the fact that we are still human and contributing members of this community. Enough damage has been done by this resolution being passed in the House.

Sending the message that same-sex couples aren't safe here is dangerous and does not serve North Dakotans' best interests. Please vote in opposition to HCR 3013.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas French