

Dear Chairman Klemin and members of the ND House Judiciary Committee—

I urge you to vote NAY on HB 3013.

First off, thank you all for your time and service to our great state of North Dakota. It is appreciated.

I am a 46 year old straight, christian, divorced but recently engaged, father to two daughters. For some reason I find the need to explain my life as if it will bear more weight with your decision, but the truth is, it shouldn't matter. Just like it shouldn't matter who a person marries in this state. (so long as both of age of course)

I have read through so many testimonies tonight that my heart just hurts. Not for the hate that has been spewed by those in favor, but from the sadness and loss of those that are opposed. The things they have had to go through when a partner dies, or goes into a hospital, or a car accident. Most things we would never think would be issues in our lives when you spend a life with someone you love. All would be solved just by allowing them to wed the person they love the most. For most of you, in your life, this is a "non-issue" but for many, being in favor of this bill is a big "not wanted" in their faces. I cannot imagine not being able to marry the person I love the most because a state decided I couldn't. It just isn't right.

In a time where government efficiency is the talk of every news station, podcast, and coffee shop, I am surprised that you have colleagues who think this is what their constituents want your time spent on right now. There are by far more important things to address and it concerns me that those that have sponsored this bill do not have the state's best interest in mind.

It is the year 2025. North Dakota has the ability to LEAD other states by showing that red states can be inclusive, they can be welcoming, and they can be inviting. That is what the citizens of this great state want. Please follow suit and vote NO.

Thank you for your time.

Marc Hedlund  
Fargo, ND