

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR3013.

I remember when the Supreme Court ruling came out in 2015 and celebrating as it felt this decision was long overdue and love finally won. In addition to consenting adults being able to declare their love for one another, all Americans deserve to have protections for their family that marriage brings; status of next-of-kin, legal rights to make decisions at end of life, financial and health benefits to name a few.

I am failing to understand why anyone would want this overturned. I have not been able to find any compelling arguments or negative impacts same-sex marriage has caused in our communities. I am very disappointed in our state government officials that this topic is a taking up resources and time when there are so many other causes that they could be focusing time and energy. Health care, protecting the elderly, working to end hunger insecurities, homelessness, mental health are a few initiatives that would enhance the lives and safety in our communities. This legislation does nothing to help or protect North Dakotans. In fact, it is legislation like this that divides and drives hate.

I have lived my whole life in North Dakota and for the most part always have been proud of this great state. This does not make me proud; this makes me cringe and sad that the LGBTQ+ community is being targeted to have freedoms taken away.

I am an actively involved in my community. I volunteer to enhance the lives of children and others that are vulnerable and in need of a little help, kindness, hope and love. I am trying to make a difference in creating a safe community for all. That includes advocating for basic freedoms and rights for all, regardless of who they love.

I am a Christian and I do not support how others are creating divide and hate in the name of God. I do not agree with their views as I was always taught, we are all God's children and should take actions to show love and support for one another.

Thank you for your time.

Heidi Llewellyn