

Madame Chair Larson and Esteemed Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jason Grueneich, a proud citizen of District 30 in Bismarck, ND. I am providing testimony today in opposition to HCR3013. I write my opposition in the strongest way possible. There are many reasons I could write but let me provide just a few points as I know you are receiving overwhelming opposition to this resolution from your constituents:

- **Broad Support** - Currently in the United States, 69% of the public, or 2 in 3 people, support same sex marriage, when broken into parties respectively, 83% (D), 74% (I), and 46% (R). 370,101 people support same sex marriage in ND & 371,975 came out to vote last year.....
- **Lasting Marriages** – Recent divorce statistics show that Same Sex couples have a lower divorce rate, at 1.1% annually, compared to Straight, or Different Sex, couple who have a divorce rate of 2% annually, almost twice the rate.... They could teach us all a thing or two about making marriage work, couldn't they.
- **Economics** - A 5-year study, completed in 2020, found that same sex wedding ceremonies alone, are producing \$760 million a year for state and local economies, supported 45,000 jobs, and generated more than \$48.8 million dollars in state and local tax annually. That's just the marriages alone, not to say what economic output a same sex couple builds on top of that.
- **Frustrations** - Have you heard the public outcry from your state? It is everywhere, in the papers, on social media, on talk radio shows, ND Conservatives and Independents are pissed off. Here are a few of their comments, "Why is our state legislature wasting its time on this horrible resolution." & "We in ND mind our own business, work hard, and support our communities and community members, our productive straight AND gay community members, so why are we sticking our nose into this??".
- I'll tell you why, outside influences. There are strategic outside agencies using you, our elected legislature, to do something your constituents don't want you to do.
- The group is called MassResistance, & it has wooed local politicians in multiple rural states to submit their cookie cutter resolution, to bring their cause to the U.S. Supreme Court by using our state & wasting our taxpayer funds. They are not even from the Midwest; its New England elitists trying to bully your citizens into this and we don't want this. This didn't come from within the state, this is outside elitists trying to use you to do their dirty work and at our next election, you will be the ones who must face the 2 out of 3 North Dakotans who support same sex marriage at the polls, not MassResistance. Be OUR elected officials, support your citizens who are overwhelmingly in opposition to this, and vote **DO NOT PASS on HCR3013**.