

March 11, 2025

RE: Opposition to HCR 3013 – Preserving the Integrity of Equal Rights and Marriage Protections

Dear Honorable Members of the North Dakota Senate and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a **“Do Not Pass”** on HCR 3013.

I am writing to express my strong and unequivocal opposition to HCR 3013, a resolution that not only challenges well-established constitutional rights but also seeks to reopen debates that this nation has already settled. Marriage equality is not a matter of opinion—it is a matter of law, stability, and the fundamental American promise that all citizens are entitled to equal protection under the law.

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) affirmed that same-sex couples have the same constitutional right to marry as opposite-sex couples, ensuring that all families receive the same legal recognition and protections. This ruling was not merely symbolic; it provided millions of Americans with legal security regarding parental rights, inheritance, healthcare, and spousal benefits—protections that should never be subject to political shifts. Congress reinforced these rights through the Respect for Marriage Act (2022), further safeguarding families against efforts to diminish their legal standing.

Efforts like HCR 3013 do not strengthen marriage or protect families; they do the opposite. By calling into question the legitimacy of certain marriages, this resolution fosters division, legal uncertainty, and unnecessary harm to American families. It is a step backward—one that is out of step with constitutional precedent, public opinion, and the moral obligation of governance.

I recognize that discussions on marriage equality have historically been shaped by deeply held personal beliefs. However, when personal beliefs are used to justify policies that restrict the rights of others, we must acknowledge the presence of bias. Whether intentional or not, legislation that seeks to redefine or restrict marriage rights disproportionately harms a specific group of Americans—our neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family members. That is the very definition of discrimination, and history has shown time and again that discrimination, when written into law, erodes the fabric of a just society.

The role of government is not to diminish rights but to protect them. It is to ensure that laws apply fairly and equally to all citizens, regardless of personal or religious viewpoints. Upholding marriage equality does not infringe on anyone’s personal beliefs, but revoking or undermining it would directly harm those whose marriages and families depend on legal recognition and stability.

My marriage is not a debate. It is not a bargaining chip. It is a lifelong commitment—rooted in love, shared responsibility, and the same values that strengthen all families. To attack the rights of same-sex couples is to attack the principles of freedom and equality that this country stands for. HCR 3013 attempts to erode those values, sending a dangerous and unacceptable message that some families are less valid, less worthy, and less protected.

Lawmakers do not get to decide whose love is legitimate and whose rights are expendable. I refuse to stand by while my marriage—and the marriages of countless others—are treated as second-class. North Dakota must be a place where all families are valued, where justice is not conditional, and where the promise of equality applies to everyone—not just a chosen few.

HCR 3013 does not move us forward—it places us at odds with legal precedent, public consensus, and the fundamental principles of fairness and equality. I urge you to reject this resolution and reaffirm the commitment to equal rights, legal stability, and the respect that all families deserve. The choice before you is not just about legislation; it is about ensuring that our state remains on the right side of history.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jorden Laducer-Dix

A Proud North Dakotan, A Loving Husband, Father and, A Firm Defender of Equality