

12 March 2025

To members of the North Dakota Senate,

I am writing to you today to urge you to vote against HCR3013. This concurrent resolution commits an act of deep harm to LGBTQ+ North Dakotans, their families, and those who support an inclusive definition of marriage.

As a North Dakotan, I was taught that care about neighborliness, service, and respect for the dignity of all people is paramount.

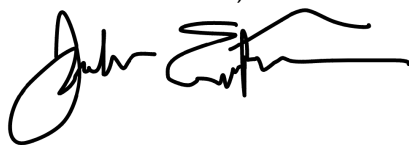
As a Lutheran Christian, I am held by conscience-bound belief that marriage among heterosexual and LGBTQ+ peoples of all kinds can be a vocation, a holy calling, and gift. Our diversity and dignity is a beautiful part of God' creation, and just, loving, and intimate relationships sometimes find a safe home for themselves in marriage.

This past summer, my partner and I got engaged. We have been together nearly 8 years, having weathered COVID and a changing world. We have mourned the deaths of grandparents together. We've experienced the joy and celebration of family together. My parents are enjoying teaching my partner the ins-and-outs of the family farm and showing him, as he's not from here, the beauties of North Dakota. Our parents are looking forward to our wedding, and we are, like so many others, overwhelmed with the details of planning a wedding celebration. Still, we are looking forward to a beautiful celebration of our supportive communities, churches, friends, families, and loved ones.

In a state where so much beauty exists, this concurrent resolution is a source of deep sadness, an impingement on my own religious freedom that understands God's celebration of a more inclusive vision of marriage, and makes us wonder whether we're welcome back home, whether we'd be safe making medical decisions with one another.

I urge you all to vote against HCR3013. North Dakota is so much more legendary than this.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob J. Erickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Jacob J. Erickson, Minot