

Senate Judiciary Committee HCR 3013
March 12, 2025

Dear Chairman Klemin, Vice Chairs Karls and Vetter, and members of the committee:

My name is Erin Gullickson. I am a citizen of North Dakota citizen, who lives and works in a rural farming area near Minot. I submit this testimony **in opposition** to HCR 3013 and I ask for a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

“The definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman,” based on the practice of Christianity disregards our individual right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” From the beginning of human creation various cultures, tribes, and kingdoms, have organized family units in a number of ways; religious groups along with more recent Euro-American history (1700’s – today), place more emphasis on the control of land and wealth through marriage using females as an article of trade and tool for expansion versus the support of long-term, committed relationships between consensual parties.

I live in a sparsely populated area of ND and have the privilege of knowing a several same-sex married couples. They are local business owners, teachers, law enforcement officers, and active community members who love and care for their surrounding communities. Some couples are adoptive parents of foster children and have made stable, nurturing homes for these young lives previously cared for as wards of the state. Other couples who own local businesses have rallied community support, encouraged charitable giving, and held a multitude of benefits for those in need--far surpassing the work done by our area religious institutions.

For the well-being of all souls seeking life-long, committed relationships, let our collective voice in North Dakota speak in the practice of marriage being a union in the name of love. In basing the practice of marriage on language within Christian scripture, we need to recall Christ himself was not noted to officiate or preside over any weddings in the Bible. At the one notorious wedding in which Jesus was present, his mother encouraged he help all in attendance by turning water into wine.

Again, please do not pass this resolution.

Respectfully,

Erin Gullickson
Benedict, ND