

## Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013

March 12, 2025

Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Camille Grade, and I am here to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013. As an ally to the gay community and someone with many LGBTQ+ friends and colleagues, I am deeply concerned about the impact of this resolution on both the people of North Dakota and the economic future of our state.

Failing to recognize same-sex marriage sends a damaging message about who is welcome in North Dakota. **Our state has worked hard to attract and retain top talent, entrepreneurs, and young families.** If we signal that LGBTQ+ individuals and couples are not fully valued or protected here, we risk losing bright, hard working people to other states that offer more inclusive policies. This could hinder efforts to grow our economy, attract new businesses, and keep North Dakota competitive in an increasingly globalized market.

Additionally, repealing the recognition of same-sex marriage could create legal and financial uncertainties. Couples who were legally married elsewhere may face challenges with property rights, health care decisions, and inheritance issues. Such instability is not only harmful to families but also creates unnecessary legal burdens for our courts and businesses.

North Dakota has long prided itself on being a place where people work hard, support their neighbors, and build strong communities. We should be fostering an environment that encourages all individuals—regardless of who they love and marry—to contribute to the success of our state. HCR 3013 undermines that principle and moves us backward at a time when we should be focused on growth and inclusion.

**I urge you to not erase the hard work of your predecessors and simultaneously hinder the impact of your successors.**

**Oppose this resolution** and stand on the side of economic prosperity, fairness, and the values that make North Dakota a great place to live and work. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Camille Grade  
District 27  
Horace, ND