

March 12, 2025

Dear Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HCR 3013.

I am writing to express my 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 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 will not stand by while my marriage and the marriages of others are not treated as equals. 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keli Rosselli-Sullivan
Minot, ND