

I urge this legislative body to oppose HCR 3013. This resolution carries no legal weight, as the Supreme Court is unlikely to change the law based on a request from the North Dakota legislature. What it does do is a message to LGBTQ+ citizens in North Dakota that their families are second-class, not recognized, valued, or respected by the state. For young L+ persons, who are already at higher risk for mental illness, homelessness, and suicide because of societal prejudice, it sends the message that the state rejects their identities and their relationships. This resolution will create harm in a way that marriage equality never has.

I have been happily married to my wife since 2015. Our marriage has not harmed a single heterosexual or cisgender couple nor anyone else in our community. Instead, our marriage license guarantees that the two of us, who have chosen to spend our lives together, will be protected if and when the unthinkable happens. We will have hospital visitation rights, decision-making rights, inheritance rights. The person I have chosen to entrust with my life is legally entitled to make life-saving decisions on my behalf. If something happens to me, she is financially protected.

This body should roundly reject this grandstanding, nonsensical resolution.