

## **Testimony Against North Dakota Bill HCR 3013**

**To: Honorable Members of the North Dakota Legislature**

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013, which urges the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman. I believe this resolution is a banner of stupidity raised in proud ignorance and promoted through ruthless lack of empathy and respect. It goes without saying that this undermines the progress our nation has made toward equality and human dignity for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

### **1. Upholding Individual Rights and Equality:**

The landmark decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) established that the right to marry is a fundamental constitutional right, regardless of gender. By asserting that marriage should only be defined as a union between one man and one woman, this resolution would not only dismiss the legal protections afforded to same-sex couples but would also attempt to reverse a critical decision that affirmed the dignity and rights of millions of Americans.

Equality before the law is a cornerstone of our democracy, and reversing this progress would harm not only LGBTQ+ couples but also families who deserve the legal recognition and protection that marriage provides. In a country founded on principles of liberty and justice for all, such a resolution sends the wrong message to our citizens — that some people are not worthy of equal treatment and protection under the law. This would then, in turn continue to deplete our greatest resource: our people! Young people are leaving and have left due to this message of loud ignorance.

### **2. Legal and Constitutional Precedent:**

The Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* was a decisive affirmation of the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection and due process. Attempting to overturn this ruling would be a direct attack on the principle of judicial independence and the role of the Court in interpreting the Constitution.

The question of marriage equality was thoroughly litigated and debated. The decision to legalize same-sex marriage was not just a matter of political or ideological preference but of constitutional rights. The United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Obergefell* reflects the evolving understanding of equality and human rights in our country. The hubris of our elected officials to assume that they have legal counsel to offer the court is astonishing.

### **3. The Impact on Families:**

Restoring the definition of marriage to one between a man and a woman would have far-reaching consequences for thousands of North Dakota residents and their families. Many same-sex couples in North Dakota, as well as across the nation, have built loving, committed families, and they deserve the same legal rights and protections that other families have access to.

Denying same-sex couples the right to marry and enjoy the legal benefits that come with marriage — such as inheritance rights, tax benefits, access to healthcare, and parental rights — not only harms those individuals but also the children they raise, who would be deprived of the stability and protection that a legally recognized marriage provides.

#### **4. Supporting Equality and Moving Forward:**

Rather than encouraging a return to outdated and discriminatory views of marriage, I urge the North Dakota Legislature to focus on policies that promote equality, dignity, and respect for all individuals. North Dakota can be a leader in fostering inclusivity and advancing the rights of all its citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

#### **Conclusion:**

HCR 3013 flaunts the ignorance and pride of an uncivilized minority and is a step backward for equality, human rights, and the protection of families. It is crucial that we continue to support the rights of same-sex couples and their families and ensure that all North Dakotans are treated equally under the law. I respectfully urge you to oppose this resolution and stand up for the fundamental rights of all people.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,  
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