

Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013

Submitted by: Abigail J. Eads

Minot, North Dakota

Date: March 12, 2025

Chairperson and Members of the North Dakota Legislature,

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HCR 3013, which urges the United States Supreme Court to redefine marriage as a union between one man and one woman. This resolution is unnecessary, harmful, and deeply out of touch with the reality of the world we live in today. It sends a clear message to LGBTQ+ North Dakotans that their love and their families are somehow less valid, less worthy of legal recognition, and less welcome in our state. That is not the North Dakota I believe in.

Marriage equality has been the law of the land for nearly a decade, and in that time, it has strengthened families and communities. It has given couples legal protections, ensured children have secure households, and affirmed that love and commitment are what define marriage—not outdated restrictions. This resolution does not protect marriage; it seeks to strip rights away from people who have done nothing but want the same dignity, recognition, and security that others have always had.

This is not just a theoretical debate—it affects real people. LGBTQ+ North Dakotans are our neighbors, coworkers, teachers, business owners, and friends. They are in our churches, our schools, our workplaces, and our families. They contribute to our communities in every way imaginable. And right now, they are being told by their own government that their marriages are up for debate, that they are less deserving of the same rights and respect as everyone else. That does real harm—not just legally, but emotionally and socially.

As North Dakotans, we value fairness, respect, and community. The Supreme Court settled this issue in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and most Americans—including many North Dakotans—have moved forward in support of marriage equality. This resolution is not about strengthening families; it is about taking rights away. It is a step backward when we should be focusing on policies that support and uplift all of our citizens.

I urge you to reject this measure. Let's not waste time reopening old wounds. Let's be a state that values and respects all of its people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Abigail J. Eads