

Madame Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Lindsey Bertsch and I am a District 3 resident in Minot, North Dakota. I was born and raised here. I am writing to strongly urge a Do Not Pass recommendation for HCR 3013. I recall a representative's words on the House floor a few weeks ago regarding this resolution, where he said that he's not against same sex couples, he just thinks they should have to define their partnerships as something other than marriage. If you find yourselves swayed by this statement, I would advise that you personally could simply refer to another's marriage by a different word. If you would like to call a same sex marriage by a different word, you are more than welcome to - that is your first amendment right. But working towards denying the legal allowances that come with marriage to a married couple (whether they are same sex or otherwise) is an authoritarian infringement on basic dignity and human rights.

I would ask you to consider this - have you personally been negatively affected by the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision that allowed same sex marriage? The answer is likely no. I understand that a major motivation in the advancement of this resolution, and its intention to influence the Supreme Court, has to do with concerns regarding children raised by parents in same-sex marriages. There are countless studies affirming that children whose parents are in same-sex marriages fare as well as children with different-sex parents. One academic study published in 2023 synthesizes many of these studies and lists them in the references. I will attach it [here](#). You can peruse the list of references of extensive studies made available there. Similarly, a Cornell University research project compiled *peer reviewed* studies (this was a major criteria for studies to be included, as is described in the project's methodologies) published since 1985. It found 75 studies affirming that children raised by couples in same-sex marriages fared as well as children raised by couples in different-sex marriages. Only four peer reviewed studies were found supporting the claim that children of couples in same-sex marriages fared worse than children of couples raised in different-sex marriages. You may peruse this Cornell research project and its included studies [here](#). It is also worth noting that those four studies contained some obvious issues in their own methodologies.

I hope you listen to your constituents. As of 11am on Wednesday, March 12th, there are 279 written testimonies submitted for HCR 3013. This does not include my testimony that I am currently writing in opposition to HCR 3013. I understand there will likely be more uploaded between now and when constituents can no longer submit, but I would like to break down the numbers for you as they currently stand.

Of the 279 written testimonies submitted as of 11am on Wednesday March 12th, 2025:

- 29 are in favor of HCR 3013. Eleven of which are from out of state individuals, which means 38% of submitted in favor testimony so far has come from out of state.
- 251 are in opposition to HCR 3013. Nine of these are from out of state (two of which are just across the Red River from Moorhead, MN). This means that 4% of submitted in opposition testimony has come from out of state

I hope you consider these numbers and choose to prioritize the demands of your constituents, those of us who actually reside in North Dakota.

Finally, I hope Madame Chair and members of this committee can simply recognize how truly and utterly silly HCR 3013. Is it yet another blatant example of North Dakota being used as a testing ground for ridiculous, time-consuming, and wasteful legislation to see if it will be possible in red states with larger populations. I am not just urging, but *demanding* a Do Not Pass Recommendation for HCR 3013 - on behalf of a majority of your constituents. Perhaps you could request a resolution like this be put on the ballot, so that way you could see for yourselves where North Dakotans stand - if the written testimony to this resolution isn't enough for you.

Thank you,
Lindsey Bertsch
District 3 Minot
Real Resident of North Dakota