

Senate Judiciary Committee

March 12, 2025

HCR 3013 – Testimony in Opposition

Kayla Solem, LCSW, LAC

Chair and members of the committee, my name is Kayla Solem. I reside in Williston, ND and have lived in North Dakota all of my life. I work as a mental health therapist and addiction counselor. I am writing in opposition to HCR 3013.

This resolution does not represent the vast majority of North Dakotans and doesn't carry the weight of the law yet holds a bold statement of hate towards the LGBTQ+ community. My job puts me in a unique position to help and care for others. Individuals in the LGBTQ+ community are at risk for negative mental health outcomes such as suicidal ideation and self-harm in part by lack of support from their communities. This resolution puts this group at risk for furthering negative mental health outcomes and stigma.

We have a variety of professionals from multiple professions working in the state who identify with this community. These are our neighbors, doctors, teachers, community members, etc. We should be welcoming them, not creating additional barriers for those who want to live in our state. I am deeply concerned and frustrated due to the possibility of losing professionals around the state who provide a variety of services for the people of North Dakota.

In conclusion, I would strongly urge the committee to give a Do Not Pass recommendation for HCR 3013. North Dakotans deserve a welcoming state where individuals have the right to love who they love, not having politicians decide.

Thank you for your time.

Kayla Solem, LCSW, LAC