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12 March 2025

Chairman Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: Opposition to ND HCR 3013

Dear Chairman Larson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013.

I am a lifelong North Dakota resident. I was born in Grand Forks and lived there until the age of 12 when the Flood of '97 washed us to the shores of Williston. I have lived in this state for 40 years now. I love North Dakota. I love how in the East you can watch the sunrise and sunset put on a light show in a wheat field that is so beautiful, it takes your breath away. I love how in the West, you can step into the backyard of the Badlands and feel like you are in a cathedral. I don't even mind our winters (although I could do without experiencing the winter of '96-97 again). I believe they build character, courage, and resilience.

I love our people. I love our audacity. Our perseverance. Our communities. Our neighborliness. Our North Dakota Nice. I see none of that North Dakota Nice in HCR 3013. I see a cruelty. A callousness. A level of indifference and disregard that stuns me. How does HCR 3013 support our neighbors, our families, our friends, or our communities? While this resolution specifically targets the LGBTQ+ community, it harms us all. It sends the message that in North Dakota, you are only free to a fulfilling and joyful life with the one you love if you just so happen to be heterosexual. It sends the message to everyone else that, while they may live here, they do not have the right to that same happiness.

I have a young son, who will soon be turning three. I want him to experience everything wonderful in this world, but most importantly, I want him to know what it is to love and be loved, to be kind and experience kindness, and to be a good neighbor. HCR 3013 is the opposite of every one of those values. Please do not create a North Dakota that is hateful and exclusionary. There is plenty of room at the potluck for everyone. I'll bring the tater-tot hotdish. You can bring the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

I respectfully ask that you vote **NO** on ND HCR 3013 and reject this harmful resolution. Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to serving the people of North Dakota.

Sincerely,  
LeeAnn R. Clark

District 1, Williston

