

March 12, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the North Dakota Senate and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a **“Do Not Pass”** on HCR 3013.

I am writing to express that I stand strongly in opposition of passing HCR 3013. I was born and raised in North Dakota. Growing up I was constantly shown to be kind to one another, treat others equally and to be loving and accepting. ND is home to numerous same-sex couples. We are interweaved in daily life throughout the state. We are taking care of others and saving lives within the healthcare systems, we are supporting the economy and providing resources in the oilfields and energy industries, we own our own businesses, we are a part of the essential workforce in the service industry, and we are alongside you holding government jobs. It is where my family currently resides. Passing this bill will send a message that we are not welcome here. Marriage is a private decision between two partners. It is not a union solely for religious reasons or for bearing children, as both of these foundations vary indefinitely within opposite-sex marriages as well. Obergefell v. Hodges provides same-sex couples equivalent legal protection, parental rights, healthcare and spousal benefits as opposite-sex marriages. It should not be the government’s decision on whether two consenting adults can or cannot establish this union. Marriage is defined as an intimate or close bond. To promise your spouse that **love will always win**. Who we love is not up for debate by legislature. A difference in personal beliefs should not be allowed to dissolve these unions. I urge you to review the letter posted on [www.ndhrc.org](http://www.ndhrc.org) that has more than one thousand signatures from residents of ND that support the LGBTQ+ community. This shows that the passing of HCR 3013 is not in the best interest of a majority of this state. We have elected you as officials to uphold our rights as people of ND, not erode them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Brooke Tooley

A lifelong North Dakota resident, loving mother, and proud partner