

Testimony Opposing HCR Bill 3013

My name is Melissa Haahr, and I am writing this to urge you to **VOTE NO on HCR 3013.**

The right to marry is a fundamental human right and should not be limited by gender or sexual orientation. **Allowing individuals to marry does not undermine existing marriages; a union between two consenting adults—regardless of gender—does not impact anyone else’s marriage. This reflects fairness and equality in our society.**

While personal religious beliefs may influence opposition to marriage equality, we must remember that the U.S. is built on the separation of church and state. Religious doctrines should not dictate civil law. In a society founded on freedom and individual rights, laws should protect everyone’s liberties, regardless of personal beliefs. Marriage equality is a matter of upholding these core values of liberty, justice, and human dignity.

We have no right to judge whom someone chooses to love or marry. If someone opposes same-sex marriage, the solution is not to restrict others’ rights but to simply refrain from entering such a marriage themselves. A just society is based on respect for others and the pursuit of equality.

My son and his husband, both raised to respect others and contribute meaningfully to society, are happily married. They embody values of kindness, love, empathy, and compassion. As parents, our greatest wish is for our children to be happy and loved. Every individual deserves the opportunity to live a life of fulfillment and joy, no matter who they love.

The American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are inseparable from the separation of church and state. Denying marriage equality undermines these principles. Supporting marriage equality honors the values this country was founded on—freedom, justice, and the right to pursue happiness.

Please vote NO on HCR 3013. Thank you.

With respect,

Melissa J. Haahr