



## **Testimony on HCR 3013**

### **North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers**

**March 12, 2025**

#### **Senate Judiciary Committee**

Chairman Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

The North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-ND) strongly opposes HCR 3013 because it devalues North Dakota citizens by urging the US Supreme Court to only recognize marriage between a man and woman, while denying lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer families the same recognition. The social work profession values empowerment, dignity and worth of a person, and social justice for individuals with all backgrounds, all gender identities, and expressions. HCR 3013 dismantles the support and progress established for LGBTQ individuals.

As of 2024, 2.7% of individuals in North Dakota identify as LGBTQ+. While may seem slight it rounds out to over 20,000 people. This resolution would devalue the choice, opportunities, and rights of 20,000 individuals within our own communities.

NASW-ND opposes policies that hinder the constitutional and fundamental rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. Many of the arguments in support of this resolution are based on religious beliefs. The US Constitution protects the freedom of religion, and while this resolution does not mention any specific religion it may impact individuals who may not identify with that form of religion, neglecting individuals the right of the freedom of association, which per our constitution allows individuals to identify with whatever religion and beliefs that they choose.

NASW-ND recognizes and supports LGBTQ+ individuals in being granted the same rights, privileges that are guaranteed to heterosexual and cisgender individuals. NASW-ND opposes any legislative efforts that attempt to discriminate against individuals of any backgrounds, or with any gender identity or expression. Our profession advocates for LGBTQ+ individuals to dwell within a safe and supportive environment, have rights to create families, and have equal access to resources within our communities. We encourage a society where individuals are free to disclose and identify as they wish, while creating a life that they choose.

We urge the members of this committee to vote DO NOT PASS on HCR 3013, as its objectives will aim to uphold the systemic barriers, stigmatization and marginalization of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Respectfully,

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