

Senate Judiciary Committee  
HCR 3013  
March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chair Larson, Vice Chair Paulson, and members of the Committee,

My name is Nicole Erhardt. I am a life-long resident of Bismarck/Mandan and am happily married to my wife. I submit this testimony in opposition to HCR 3013.

In my life, I have had the privilege to watch our nation make great strides in the world of same-sex couples and LGBT+ individuals that have helped me find myself along the way. I was in middle school when “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was repealed and thought for the first time, that maybe there wasn’t something that was wrong with me. I knew I was different from my classmates, but I also knew that this difference wasn’t something to be proud of, so I hid myself and hated myself for way too many years. Fast forward 4 years to my first year of college, and I became witness to another great feat with the legalization of same-sex marriage in all 50 states after Obergefell v. Hodges. At this point, I knew I was gay but was still too afraid to be who I really was. Again, fast forward another 5 years, and I met my beautiful, now wife, in 2020 and I had never been happier or felt safer to be who I really was. I told my parents about her in July and unfortunately my dad passed away unexpectedly in September before he was able to meet her. This amazing woman stood by my side and met my entire extended family at my dad’s funeral. I don’t think I could have made it through those days without her.

We continued to date for another 2 years, got engaged in June of 2022, and were finally married November 21, 2022. We were so excited on our wedding day to finally be each other’s wives and to have proof that we are indeed a family and committed to each other for the rest of our lives. Since getting married we have purchased a house, completed many home renovation projects, adopted two puppies from a rescue, traveled together, and had our fair share of struggles, just like most married couples. We have also been thankful for the privileges granted to us by being married such as filling taxes jointly and being able to be on each other’s health insurance as well as a host of other benefits.

I tell you this story about discovering who I am and being able to marry the woman I love in hopes that you will see same-sex couples, as any other couple. We have the same relationship struggles, we still spend our days doing laundry, dishes, and walking the dogs like every other married couple. We love, respect, and care for each other and want our marriage to be valid and honored. North Dakota is our home, this is the state we want to remain in, and we want to be respected as a couple here.

**HCR 3013 deserves a DO NOT PASS recommendation.**

Sincerely,  
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Pictured: Nicole and Alysa Erhardt with their 2 rescues, Apple and Rosie