

To: North Dakota Legislative Body

From: Dan Belzer (Cando, ND native)

I am writing in opposition to HCR 3013. How disappointing and disgusting that the legislative body of the state (primarily republicans) is wasting time and money on such hateful and bigoted action. Same-sex marriage has no impact on a “traditional” male-female marriage (or divorce).

I have returned to ND and worked many times since I left in 1988, spending the past 25 years as a professor at UCLA, while also offering music ministry throughout the Los Angeles catholic diocese. My same sex partner and I (who I met in ND), have been together for 36 years. Has that hurt anyone in any way? We all know the answer: no. Much of my work in ND over the years has been with the Cando Arts Council, directing community theater productions during summer months. While I have enjoyed those times, North Dakota’s current hostility to the LGBTQ community will stop me from doing so again. Likewise, I would never consider living in North Dakota again for this reason alone. At this point, I question whether to even visit family living there. I, and people like me (normal people), are being told we are less than others and not wanted in the state.

No longer am I proud to say I’m from North Dakota. “North Dakota nice” is a thing of the past, quite obviously. Do better, legislators of North Dakota.

Dan Belzer

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