

Subject: Opposition to HC3013

My name is Erin Ward, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to HC3013. I never imagined that I would have to submit a testimonial to defend the validity of my own marriage, yet this resolution forces my wife and me to do just that.

My wife, Heidi, and I live a typical life as North Dakotans, though neither of us are originally from the state. We work hard, pay taxes, celebrate life's victories, and navigate its challenges—just like any other couple. However, the passage of this resolution would impose an unnecessary and deeply personal hardship on us by calling into question the legitimacy of our marriage.

Beyond being my wife and life partner, and amazing mother to our 16 year old son, Heidi is also a veteran of the United States Army. She bravely served her country and risked her life while deployed in Iraq. It is deeply disheartening to think that after her service and sacrifice, she could now be forced to justify the very foundation of her family.

Marriage is a fundamental right that should not be subject to political debate or discrimination. HC3013 does not promote fairness or equality—it does the opposite by singling out and invalidating legally recognized marriages like mine. If passed, this resolution would cause real harm to real families, forcing us to fight for legal protections that others take for granted. I urge you to oppose HC3013 and stand for the principles of equality, dignity, and respect for all North Dakotans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Erin Ward

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Ward". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.