

Testimony of Gail Hagerty
Before the North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee
In Opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013

I urge you to recommend that HCR 3013 not be passed by the North Dakota Senate.

Passage of the resolution would have absolutely no impact on any decision making by the United States Supreme Court.

But the passage of the resolution would send a message to me, to my family, to folks with whom I worship, to friends with whom I share meals and companionship, that we are not wanted or welcomed in the State of North Dakota.

I would hear that message even if my daughter wasn't married to a wonderful woman whom I love as a daughter.

From **Obergefell v. Hodges**, 576 U.S. 644, 681 (2015) (Kennedy, J.):

“No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right.”