

Testimony in opposition to HCR 3013

Good Afternoon, thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony on HCR 3013. My name is Shantel Kuntz. I am an Air Force Veteran, mother of four children, & part of the LGBTQIA+ community. I grew up in North Dakota until I was 18 years old at which time I left for basic military training. During my time away, I was fortunate to be introduced to a vast array of people from all walks of life to include different cultures, religions, beliefs, and values. This experience really helped me broaden my horizons and realize that just because someone doesn't follow my cultural, religious traditions and beliefs doesn't make them any less valid. Four years ago I found myself in a place that required me to move back home to North Dakota. I was initially pleasantly surprised by the amount of growth that had occurred in the 18 years I was away. There seemed to be more acceptance of others and their differences, but unfortunately over time my eyes have been opened to how unaccepting many individuals in North Dakota still are. Most recently, my eyes were opened even more when I heard of this resolution to redefine marriage to be between one man and one woman. My whole world began to shake because now I, a veteran; one who served her country with honor and dignity, would no longer be able to legally marry the woman I love in a state that I call home. I chose to serve; gave my oath to protect and defend the constitution of the United States and to protect the freedoms and liberties of the citizens that live therein. This resolution has the potential to strip the freedoms of many citizens, including myself and my children, of their right to choose not only who they love, but who they choose to marry all because both individuals are of the same sex. This is discrimination and an infringement on civil

rights. I urge you to please vote NO on HCR 3013 and help me keep my oath to protect the rights and freedoms of ALL citizens that call North Dakota home.