

**2025 HOUSE JUDICIARY**

**HCR 3013**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Judiciary Committee**  
Room JW327B, State Capitol

HCR 3013  
2/17/2025

A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

10:13 a.m. Chairman Klemin opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Klemin, Vice-Chairman Karls, Vice-Chairman Vetter, Representatives Christianson, Henderson, Johnston, S. Olson, Satrom, Tveit, VanWinkle, Wolff, Schneider

Members Absent: Representatives Hoverson, McLeod

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court case
- Historical background of marriage

10:13 a.m. Representative Bill Tveit, North Dakota Representative for District 33, introduced the bill and provided testimony #37796.

10:22 a.m. Arthur Schaper, Field Director for MassResistance, testified in favor and provided testimony #37740.

10:27 a.m. David Tamisiea, Executive Director of North Dakota Catholic Conference, testified in favor and provided testimony #37828.

10:33 a.m. Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action, testified in favor and provided testimony #37790.

10:37 a.m. Christina Sambor, North Dakota Human Rights Coalition, testified in opposition and provided testimony #37876.

10:41 a.m. Samuel Bono, Fargo, North Dakota, testified in opposition.

10:44 a.m. Karen Krenz, Williston, North Dakota, testified in favor and provided testimony #37798.

10:47 a.m. Delvin Boehm, Chairman of the Republican Party of District 33, testified in favor.

## **Additional written testimony:**

In favor

#37760, #37774, #37775, #37792

In opposition

#37745, #37746, #37747, #37767, #37769, #37770, #37780, #37784, #37785, #37788,  
#37789, #37791, #37793, #37799, #37804, #37805, #37810, #37814, #37816, #37817,  
#37819, #37820, #37822, #37827, #37829, #37832, #37836, #37754, #37826, #37754

10:49 a.m. Chairman Klemin closed the hearing.

*Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk*

2025-02-17 Speech to the North Dakota House Judiciary Committee

**Honorable Members of the North Dakota House Judiciary Committee,**

My name is Arthur Schaper, and I am the Field Director for MassResistance, the international pro-family group that makes the difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on a matter of great constitutional, moral, and social significance—the 2015 Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* and its impact on our nation.

Let us begin with the constitutional issue at hand. Nowhere in the United States Constitution is marriage defined or regulated. The Tenth Amendment clearly states that powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved for the states and the people. The Supreme Court’s ruling in *Obergefell* overstepped these boundaries, stripping states of their right to determine marriage laws for themselves. Worse still, it ignored the natural rights of citizens and transformed liberty into a privilege granted by the government, rather than an inalienable right given by God.

One of the fundamental arguments regarding same-sex “marriage” is that it is a right. The truth is that no one has a right to marry anyone. I must ask a woman for her hand in marriage, and she has the right to refuse. Furthermore, opponents of this resolution will claim that preventing two people of the same sex from marrying is a form of invidious discrimination, like the racial segregation laws of the Jim Crow South. Nothing could be further from the truth. Individuals are born black, Hispanic, white, or of a certain ethnic background. However, there is no evidence that individuals are born homosexual.

In fact, the normalization of same-sex relationships has brought serious public health concerns. The CDC has documented disproportionately high rates of STDs, HIV, and mental health struggles among men who have sex with men. These issues are not the result of so-called discrimination but rather stem from the inherent risks of homosexual behavior. Despite efforts to frame these concerns as mere social stigma, the medical data tells a different story.

This decision was not only legally flawed but ethically compromised. Two justices who ruled in favor of *Obergefell*—Justice Kagan and Justice Ginsburg—had previously officiated same-sex weddings. Their failure to recuse themselves raises serious concerns about judicial bias. Had they done so, the ruling would have likely gone 4-3 against same-sex marriage, leaving the matter to the democratic process where it belongs.

Beyond constitutional concerns, the societal consequences of redefining marriage have been severe. Marriage has always been recognized—both in common law and natural law—as a covenant between one man and one woman. This structure is not arbitrary; it is foundational to the well-being of children, who deserve the irreplaceable guidance of both a mother and a



father. When marriage is redefined, fatherhood and motherhood are deemed optional, and it is children who suffer.

In the wake of *Obergefell*, we have also seen an alarming erosion of religious liberty and free speech. Business owners such as bakers, florists, and photographers have faced devastating fines and lawsuits simply for refusing to participate in same-sex weddings. Public officials like Kim Davis of Kentucky have been jailed for following their conscience. This is not the “live and let live” society we were promised. Instead, it is a tyranny that demands total submission to a new moral order—one that punishes dissent and erases foundational American freedoms.

This decision has also paved the way for further social upheaval. If sex is irrelevant in marriage, why should it be relevant anywhere else? Today, we see the consequences: biological men claiming women’s identities, infiltrating female spaces, and even competing in women’s sports. We were told that same-sex marriage would not affect anyone else. That was a lie. The consequences are everywhere—from our classrooms to our courtrooms, from our businesses to our bathrooms.

Some may argue that this is a settled matter, that we have more pressing concerns. But if we allow the foundation of marriage and family to erode, then every other policy—economic, legal, and cultural—rests on shifting sand. Strong families are the backbone of a strong nation. We cannot put America First while putting American children second.

Finally, let us address a common claim: “Love is love.” If that is true, should adults be allowed to marry children? Should polygamy be legalized? Throughout history, societies have recognized that love alone is not the basis for marriage. Marriage exists not merely for personal fulfillment, but for the greater good of society, particularly for the well-being of children.

Members of this committee, today you have the opportunity to stand for truth, for natural law, and for the Constitution. *Obergefell* was a mistake. It is time for the states to reclaim their rightful authority, to protect religious liberty, and to restore the natural order of marriage.

Please support HCR 3013.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Arthur Schaper  
Field Director  
MassResistance  
Email: [arthur@massresistance.org](mailto:arthur@massresistance.org)  
Cell: (781) 474-3005

HB 1012

Dear chair Klemin and the members of the judiciary committee I urge a do not pass on HRC 3013.

Marriage is something that two consenting adults no matter their gender should be able to share in, its also a right that many people have fought for to simply share that bond. Theres no reason other than malice to start rolling back these rights and I urge that this proposal stops here and goes no further.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Sean Thorstad

Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a Do Not Pass on HRC 3013.

This bill is giving me real harsh vibes, fr fr. I know many of my homies in this state are both queer and deeply religious. Who wish to be married and to be married under the love of their god. Faith is flexible, it is something with a world of disagreements between different religions and sects of those religions. There shouldn't be one religion to rule them all, as we learned through Sauron many eons ago the dangers of this very thing. In some ways, this bill to write a strongly worded letter is silly. And I'm not against the chamber deciding to write a letter. If this bill does pass, I hope everyone can sign it. With BIG letters too, big enough the Kind of England could read them without his glasses if you get what I mean. I would actually pay for postage. I wouldn't stand in the way of a committee of lawmakers from across our state writing letters. If these are your strongly held beliefs, if you find this action truly Skibidi, you do represent us and at the end of the day I do believe in you all. I'm rooting for you in the same way I root for North Dakota, no cap. This state is mad bussin.

And each day, we together, forge the future and destiny of our shared land. I think of the world I want for the state I was born. And I think about a place where everyone can find happiness and hope. Even the folks who don't want to share their wedding cake. I get it. That frosting is fire. But I think there is room both in the kingdom of heaven and realm of man for sharing joy, happiness, marriage, and that dope wedding cake. I'm in it for the cake, I will be honest. But also for a future of finding some common cause. For celebrating each other rather than dividing the world by our singular vision of it. Ya know?

And maybe stepping back. The world is getting scary. Lots of people shouting, not so many listening. Lots of accusation and really just folks trying to survive for the most part. And if we wanna stop talking pass each other, it means being a little humble, sharing some cake, maybe with old Faye here?

I sincerely appreciate all of your time and service to our state. I sincerely wish the best to you and your families no matter how you vote on this. I'll get some store bought cake in the meantime. It's okay. Not great.

All the love,  
Faye Seidler

Dear Chair Klemen and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a DO NOT pass on HRC 3013

I have lived in North Dakota for my whole life, I met my wife in 2009 and we never thought we would be given the right to get married. We were finally able to see that as a possibility in the summer of 2015 and we have been married since September 8th 2015.

This was an important day for not only us but all people who have had that chance to get married to the person that they love.

I never thought that at age 39 I would be getting my affairs in order by filling out legal documents, such as medical power of attorney and hospital room visitor authorization forms, because in reality we don't have the same rights as everyone else. If something were to happen to either one of us the hospital could legally prevent one of us from even entering the hospital room. These are the bridges we have crossed to safeguard ourselves. Even though this isn't something normal couples have to think of to prevent being able to be close to the one you love.

Marriage should not be exclusive to only couples consisting of men and women, but for ALL who wish to have a life with the person that they love.

We have fought over and over for basic human rights, and we are still fighting. We are not asking for any special treatment, we just want what every other person gets and deserves, one of those basic things is the right to get married.

One thing we consistently hear over and over is that religiously marriage is defined by a man and women, but life is more complicated than that. We ALL belong and we ALL deserve to be happy and have the opportunity to build the family we wish to have.

Again I urge a DO NOT pass on this, and I thank you for your time.

Chelsea Gagner

I stand in direct opposition of this concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman. This is as an American who believes that the choice to marry between any two consenting adults should be allowed in this nation. People will love who they want to love whether laws say this love is legal or not. I also stand within my commitment to pursue education in the great state of North Dakota. Who played a role in leadership amongst many students who come from out of state who are seeking quality education and overall development as a human being in the state of North Dakota. How can North Dakota grow in its academic and pedagogical standing within the educational and career/ commerce community when members who decide to work and learn in our community must now understand that their standing marriages are to be no longer recognized by the state. How are existing same sex marriages supposed to internalize that our highest leadership in the state holds our best interest but still stand against our right to marry as American citizens. I ask you why a young person( like myself ) or educator would look to Bismark state college or North Dakota state college or University of North Dakota for our academic and career advancement and foundation if we are/were to learn that our partnerships, families and parents unions are not recognized or given the same procedural legitimacy as our opposite sex counterparts marriages. Same sex marriages pursue marriage for the very same principles and opportunities that opposite sex marriages do. The reasons are infinite for their desire to be married. Just as they are for your families and your own parents' ambition to be married and recognized as married to your neighbors, friends, community and grandparents. To signify a commitment to one another. Young people shape our future whether that be people like me who come to north dakota and look for ways to life my new community up or those that are born and raised here. Will we subject them to leaving our great state in order for their romantic relationships to be granted access to legitimate marriage or allow them the very right this council has pretended to accept of one another as sitting council members. Would you even deny constituents and sitting council members the legitimacy of their relationships. Their families, their weddings, their aspirations as individuals to build a life together and make an impact as such on the greater north dakota legacy.

## **Bill 3013:**

I stand with this Bill. There are only TWO genders in this world which is a MAN and a WOMAN. Therefore the union between one man and one woman is right and biblical. That is how God designed marriage, and as a result they are able to create and fill the world with generations to come!!

Make America Biblical again!!!!

My name is Valerie Nelson and I submit this testimony in opposition to HCR 3013.

My partner, Diane Gira, and I moved to Wahpeton, ND, in 1976. We have called Wahpeton home ever since.

We were in a loving and committed relationship starting in 1975, but were not able to be legally married until 2014 – 38 years after making that commitment to one another.

During those 38 years, we were unable to have access to the benefits that legally married couples often take for granted. I had a great job at Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative in Wahpeton but was unable to carry Diane on any of the benefits provided to my straight colleagues:

- She couldn't be on my health insurance, dental insurance, or vision insurance;
- If I were to have died, she would not have received ANY of my pension, it would have gone back to the company;
- When Diane's parents passed away in 1997 and 1999, I was denied paid funeral leave because her parents were not considered my mother-in-law or father-in-law. Minn-Dak's Human Resources Manager told me that they were just parents of a "friend", even though at the time of their deaths Diane and I had been together for 22 and 24 years respectively. It was very painful to be treated this way but there was nothing I could do about it, Diane and I were not married and Minn-Dak was not interested in recognizing our same-sex relationship even though I was a dedicated employee who had been with the company since 1976 and was very open and out about my sexuality.

Before being able to legally marry in 2014, we had to go to extra effort and expense to draw up legal Power of Attorney and Health Care Power of Attorney to be able to represent one another if the need arose. This is something that is taken for granted by straight couples who get married. And we had to make sure we always had those documents with us when we travelled, just in case.

And then there is the emotional pain of being treated as "the other" and being told your love for one another is less than the love shared between a woman and a man. Love is love and all I can say is the love I had for Diane was as total and complete as any straight couple could ever hope for.

I lost Diane in May 2024 after a sudden illness. She was hospitalized for four weeks before her death. I did not leave her side and was with her day and night the entire four weeks, even after she was transferred to ICU. She spent 19 days on a ventilator and I was her voice during that time. I cannot imagine how painful it would have been for me to not be able to be at her side during that time and or to not be able to be updated by Diane's caregivers at Sanford. Because we were able to be legally married, I was afforded all the rights any other married couple would be given.

Diane and I were blessed with 48 years together, 10 of those years legally married. We had a wonderful life and were thrilled when we were finally able to marry. It is hard for me to understand why anyone would introduce a bill urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman. Gay couples are not looking for special rights, all we want are the same rights and marriage equality has helped provide that.

I strongly oppose HCR 3013 and urge you to NOT pass this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Valerie Nelson

February 15, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the ND House Judiciary Committee—

My name is Natalie Couture, and I write to you as a citizen of Minot, North Dakota, in opposition of HCR 3013. As a lifelong citizen of this nation, I ask you to consider the impact that defining marriage as an act between *two individuals* rather than defining marriage as an act between *one biological man and one biological woman* has had on you, personally, and the rights and liberties you may or may not hold as someone married to another individual. As stated within this resolution, the United States Declaration of Independence does declare that all men are created equal, yet the history of this nation proves that “equality” was not always a possibility for women or for those formerly enslaved. Clearly, interpretation of these historical documents is incredibly nuanced.

In 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States deemed it unconstitutional for states to prohibit same-sex couples from marrying or having their marriage recognized in any state. I do believe that the Supreme Court has a far better understanding of what does or does not align to the American Constitution’s intentions, especially considering that during its penning, slavery was a legal practice, and women were not permitted to own property. If you feel that the people in the state of North Dakota, whom you represent, believe *those* practices were and are still acceptable, I do not believe you know North Dakotans at all.

Representatives, I write to you as a woman, happily partnered with a man, with the intent to marry in the future. I can honestly say that throughout my life, the change in definition of marriage to indicate union between *two individuals* versus a union of *one biological man and one biological woman* has not had a single impact on my ability to seek out a male partner who would hopefully become my lawfully wedded husband one day, with the same rights and privileges as any other couple who looks to marry. My personal, moral thoughts of whether marriage between a same-sex couple is “right” have no bearing on a same-sex couple’s livelihood or choices, nor should they. My rights in marriage are not diminished through the act of any same-sex couple looking to celebrate their union through marriage; I would not and do not stand to lose any privileges as result of same-sex couples marrying.

HCR 3013 is flawed and does not align with the priorities of this state nor the people within it. Any two individuals *committed* to legal partnership through marriage should have the right to do so, and state Century Code should reflect without exclusion to any *committed* couple. This would conflict with the current proposal outlined in HCR 3013. I urge you to give this resolution a “Do Not Pass.”

Please reach out with any questions you have about this message—

Natalie Couture, Minot Resident

[ncouture12@gmail.com](mailto:ncouture12@gmail.com)



Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the judiciary committee,

I urge a “do not pass” on HRC 3013.

I am a transgender male who was born and raised in small town North Dakota. Growing up here has made me who I am, which is a kind person who is willing to go out of my way to help a neighbor. The small community I grew up in was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need of it. Right now your LGBT+ citizens and neighbors are in need of your helping hand to fight back against this bill.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state.

- Austin Deppa



# MARRIAGE

Marriage is a matter of justice for children because it's the only relationship that unites the two people to whom children have a natural right- their mother and father. It is a comprehensive union of spouses with a special link to children. Each of its norms- permanence, monogamy, and exclusivity- distinctly benefit children.

Government can **permit** adults to form all manner of consensual relationships, but should only **promote** the one relationship- lifelong male/female unions- which protects children's rights.

Marriage is not a guarantee of parenthood, but it's guaranteed that every child is the product of a mother and father. Marriage is society's best shot at giving children both... for life.

## LEGISLATING MORALITY

Government's interest in marriage is children. As explained in the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA): At bottom, civil society has an interest in maintaining and protecting the institution of heterosexual marriage because it has a deep and abiding interest in encouraging responsible procreation and child-rearing. With their ruling on Obergefell v. Hodges, the Supreme Court made gay marriage the law of the land, yet these truths persist:

- Children are the natural product of a sexual relationship between a man and a woman.
- Both a father and mother are necessary and important for children.
- Marriage between one man and one woman is the best way to promote healthy families.

Post-Obergefell, **there's no longer any governmental or political institution in the US that recognizes children should have a mother and father.** To do so may constitute discrimination.

## REDEFINING MARRIAGE HAS REDEFINED PARENTHOOD

Everywhere gay marriage becomes law, children's rights suffer. Redefining marriage redefined parenthood because it made men and women, and therefore fathers and mothers, legally interchangeable. Regardless of what parenthood laws may say, **it's impossible to legislate away a child's longing for his or her mother and father.**

*"I grew up surrounded by women who said they didn't need or want a man. Yet, as a little girl, I so desperately wanted a daddy. It is a strange and confusing thing to walk around with this deep-down unquenchable ache for a father, for a man, in a community that says that men are unnecessary. There were times I felt so angry with my dad for not being there for me, and then times I felt angry with myself for even wanting a father to begin with."*

- Heather Barwick, raised by two moms

When law conflicts with children's natural rights, it sends the message that a child's normal yearning for their missing parent is wrong, not the law itself. Legalizing gay marriage is a nationwide gaslighting of kids with same-sex parents.

## "INTENT-BASED" PARENTHOOD

Biology is a bigot when it comes to parenthood; it insists on a mother and father. Therefore, the only way to ensure same-sex and opposite-sex couples are treated equally in matters of parenthood is to legally override biology—a feat that can be accomplished only by replacing biological parenthood with intent-based parenthood.

Intent-based parenthood means that any adult with the resources to acquire a baby can do so regardless of kinship connection. No background checks, supervision, or home studies are required. Intent-based parenthood joins donor conception and surrogacy to form the unholy trinity that reduces children to purchasable, designer products. Intent-based legislation is the greatest legal threat to children's rights. Its tenets violates adoption best-practice which considers separation from biological parents as a last resort, prioritizes the child's best interests, and insists on the child's right to safe placement, to not be purchased, and to preserved kinship bonds.

Parenthood should only be based on biology (with natural safeguards) or adoption (with built-in safeguards.)

## POLYGAMY: ENTER HIGH-RISK ADULTS

Far from simply having more adults who can love and care for them, polygamy ensures that unrelated adults share living spaces with kids. Thus rates of neglect and abuse increase in polyamorous homes, alongside competition and jealousy between adults and children.

*"I grew up in a household with my father, mother, and another woman. I hated seeing my dad kiss another woman in front of me. It would anger me to see my own dad with someone else who was not my mom. I never told anyone how I felt. In my late teenage years I began dating two girls at the same time, of course without their knowledge. In the end I hurt both girls. It wasn't until my early twenties that I began questioning my intentions, desires, and actions when it came to dating. I wish I only had my mother and father with me in my childhood." -James*

## COHABITING ≠ MARRIAGE

In the past fifty years, the number of households with cohabiting couples raising children has expanded from fewer than one in one hundred to one in ten. Cohabitation is inherently unstable and thus harmful to children. Kids whose parents shack up are:

- Three times more likely to see their parents break up.
- Four times more likely to suffer physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.
- Four times more likely to live in poverty.
- More likely to use drugs, suffer from depression, and drop out of school.

## ISN'T OPPOSITION TO GAY MARRIAGE JUST LIKE OPPOSITION TO INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE?

No, the intent of anti-miscegenation (anti-race-mixing) legislation was to prevent the creation of interracial babies. Such bans were based entirely on the reality that marriage is primarily about children. Children of interracial couples have both a mother and a father, are connected to both sides of their extended family, and enjoy two rich ethnic heritages. Children of same-sex couples are denied a mother or father, have no connection to half of their extended family, and are alienated from half of their biological identity. Interracial marriage supports children's rights, gay marriage violates them.

As Doug Mainwaring, a gay man and traditional-marriage advocate, points out, "[I]t is impossible to be on the right side of history while simultaneously being on the wrong side of natural law." When you are defending kids, you will never be on the wrong side of history.

*Excerpts from chapter 4 of "Them Before Us: Why We Need a Global Children's Movement"*



THEMBEFOREUS



@THEMBEFOREUS



ADVOCATE@THEMBEFOREUS.COM



THEM\_BEFORE\_US



# SAME-SEX PARENTS

No matter how exceptional at parenting two moms or dads may be, they're incapable of providing the gender-specific love and biological identity exclusive to the child's absent mother or father. The problem with same-sex parenting isn't the gay parent, it's the missing parent.

## "NO DIFFERENCE," REALLY?

Most "studies" proclaiming that kids with same-sex parents fare "no different" than children of heterosexual parents are methodologically flawed:

- Participants were aware that the purpose was to investigate same-sex parenting, thus the respondents may have aimed at producing the desired result.
- Participants were often recruited through friends or through advocacy organizations.
- Most surveyed parental perception rather than the children's actual outcomes.
- On average, samples of fewer than forty children of parents in a same-sex relationship virtually guaranteed findings showing no statistically significant differences between groups.

Of these erroneous study results, Stephen, who lived part-time with his father and his father's partner, said, *"I keep seeing articles stating that children with gay parents do just as well, if not better, than children with straight parents. Where are they getting their information? Have they interviewed any adult children with gay parents, who can think for themselves and are no longer living with their parents?"*

## METHODS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

In his New Family Structures Study (NFSS), researcher Mark Regnerus concluded, "On twenty-five out of forty outcomes evaluated, there were statistically significant differences between children from intact biological families and those of the mothers in lesbian relationships in many areas that are unambiguously suboptimal, such as receiving welfare, need for therapy, infidelity, STIs, sexual victimization, educational attainment, safety of the family of origin, depression, attachments and dependencies, marijuana use, frequency of smoking, and criminal behavior."

Using data from the U.S. National Health Interview Survey, Paul Sullins discovered that when compared with children in dual-gender households, children in same-sex-headed families:

- Were likely to suffer emotional or behavioral difficulties at a rate of 9.3 percent, more than twice the 4.4 percent rate for children in dual-gender families.
- Experienced "definite" or "severe" emotional problems at a rate of 14.9 percent versus 5.5 percent.
- Were diagnosed with ADHD at a rate of 15.5 percent versus 7.1 percent.
- Struggled with learning disabilities at a rate of 14.1 percent versus 8 percent.
- Received special education and mental health services at a rate of 17.8 percent versus 10.4 percent.

When methodological gold-standards are employed, "marriage equality" for adults results in childhood inequality.

## MOTHER AND FATHER HUNGER

The craving for father-specific and mother-specific love transcends politically correct ideologies and progressive trends. Children's longing to be known and loved by their mother *and* father is at the very heart of what it is to be a human child.

*"I am the daughter (not biological) of two moms. I love them both sooo sooo much but there is not a day that goes by that i didn't wish i had a dad... i have men in my life my moms' friends but it is not the same. I don't agree with the fact that I will never know half of my biology or my siblings."*

*"Is there anyone else who has 2 Moms or 2 Dads who wonders what it would be like if they were born into a normal family? Is there anyone else who wants to be able to use the word normal without gettin a lecture on what is normal??? I don't know my real father and never will. It's weird but I miss him. I miss this man I will never know. Is it wrong for me to long for a father like my friends have?"*

*"From an early age I found myself being drawn to my friends' fathers, or at least the ones who seemed like good, responsible, loving dads. I think my [lesbian] parents knew somewhere in the back of their minds that this was necessary for me and didn't discourage this, which was smart on their part. My best friend's dad also probably recognized the role he was fulfilling in my life and did so willingly and that's something I'm forever grateful for." -Theodore*

## TRANSGENDER PARENTS

Many kids with parents who've transitioned describe the experience as a type of death. They don't feel like their father has become their mother; rather, their father is altogether gone.

*"My dad made the change to Stephanie and in doing so, destroyed his family.... The feelings I felt were loss. To me, my father had died, and there was no changing that. I was looking at a shell of the man I once knew. It was hard seeing him because, to me, he passed away, and it brought up those same feelings every time. I could no longer relate to him the same way."*  
-Elizabeth

Joshua reflects on how his father's decision to become a woman, Karen, has most impacted his own sense of what it means to be a man. *"When that person, your masculine figure, is lost to you at the most pertinent age and suddenly [there's a] woman in front of you, what are you supposed to do?... What is it to be a man?"*

## EMBRACE, ACCEPT, AND CELEBRATE—OR ELSE

When society conditions kids with the "love makes a family" refrain, they will doubt their instinctual want of a mother or father. Children are incapable of comprehending that it's the cultural and legal landscape which has failed them, not their own feelings. Kids with LGBT parents also face extraordinary pressure to endorse the political activism rooted in their parents' sexual identities.

*"I suffered guilt, because who was I to reject this other parent? And, oh my gosh, if she is really what is supposed to fulfill me, how horrible must I be to reject that notion?"*  
- Millie Fontana, daughter of two mothers

Disparagement of members of the LGBT community or the kids they are raising is unacceptable. Advocating for children's rights is not a commentary on whether gay men and lesbians are capable parents. A lesbian can be an exceptional mother; she simply cannot be a father. A gay man can be a fantastic father; he simply cannot be a mother. Children need, long for, and have a right to both.

*Excerpts from chapter 6 of "Them Before Us: Why We Need a Global Children's Movement"*



THEMBEFOREUS



@THEMBEFOREUS



ADVOCATE@THEMBEFOREUS.COM



THEM\_BEFORE\_US

Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

I am an openly gay man who lives in Fargo, ND. I have made North Dakota my home my entire life. When looking at the impact North Dakota has had on my life, I don't see this bill demonstrating the type of inviting nature that "North Dakota nice" is all about. There is no reason why this bill should pass. There is absolutely no harm that comes from who someone wants to love. All this bill would do is send the message that I am not welcome in North Dakota. Love is love, and there should be no reason to have a debate about something that is truly only about someone loving who they want to love. No one should be scared about being who they truly are. I want to continue making North Dakota my home, and I want to feel safe and welcome in this state. Again, I strongly urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Nathan Kurtti

Dear Chair Klemin and the Members of the Judiciary Committee

I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

I am a North Dakota citizen who has been in my 'traditional' marriage for over 10 years now and I view this bill as an absolute waste of time and money. My queer friends, family, and fellow North Dakotans should have the right to have their partnerships recognized and respected just as much as straight folks. Their joy and love does nothing to damage my life and marriage; should we not want others to be able to enjoy the same rights and abilities as ourselves? As far as religious concerns, I firmly believe the USA is for everyone and no one religion should be held above others or used for basis of law. Many religions allow for same-sex marriages, and they and non-secular citizens should not be forcibly excluded from the right of marriage just because it makes some others uncomfortable.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state.

Kayleen Charbonnet

February 16, 2025

Dear Chair Klemin and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HCR 3013.

I am an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ, which is a mainline Christian denomination with roots in the Congregational, Christian, German Reformed, and Evangelical Churches. As a denomination, the United Church of Christ has been officially supporting marriage equality for all people since 2005. For 20 years, my Christian denomination has been publicly asking the United States of America to officially recognize marriage equality for same gender loving couples. Boards within the United Church of Christ first began approving marriage equality from a theological perspective in 1996, almost 30 years ago.

We are not alone in this. The Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) have supported same-sex marriage since 1968, when the denomination was founded. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) began supporting marriage equality for same-sex couples in 1996. Reform Judaism has been supporting civil marriage for same-sex couples since 1996. The Alliance of Baptists adopted a statement supporting marriage equality for all citizens, including same-sex couples, in 2004. The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association endorsed same-sex marriage in 2004. Humanistic Judaism publicly supported the legal recognition of same-sex marriage in 2004. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) welcomed marriage equality for same-sex unions in 2009. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) began campaigning for legal same-sex marriage in 2009. Conservative Judaism formally approved same-sex marriage in 2012 and they had been allowing the blessing of same-sex unions since 2006. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has supported marriage equality for same-gender couples since 2013. The Old Catholic Church began recognizing same-sex marriages in 2014. The Presbyterian Church (USA) voted to allow same-sex marriage in 2014. The Episcopal Church sanctioned same-sex marriages in 2015.

Same-sex unions were recognized in ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Greece, and ancient Rome, among other cultures. There is a longer history of same-sex couples being recognized than there is of them not being acknowledged. There is no “natural definition” of marriage. Most Biblical marriages were polygamous. Many historical marriages were contracts between families, sometimes without approval from the people being married. The definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman is not grounded in science, religion, or history.

Regardless of an individual’s personal beliefs, it is inappropriate for United States or the state of North Dakota to deny same-sex couples the right to marry.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state. I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HCR 3013 and “No” votes on the floor.

Peace,

Rev. Gretchen Deeg  
Bismarck, ND



Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee

I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

The majority of North Dakotans aren't this worried about other people's lives. Live and let live, there have been no evil effects that I have seen from marriage equality. Please don't waste your time on non-issues this, we don't care.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Andrew Burthold

The fact that it is 2025 and this is still an issue for some people is beyond ridiculous. I am a happily married woman, with three children and seven grandchildren. My husband and I have been married for 23 years. I have SO many friends who are happily married to their husbands or wives that this bill has the probability of hurting. My friends who are husband/husband or wife/wife are just as in love and just as happy (if not MORE so) than any other married couple. The views laid out in this bill are outdate, close-minded and downright hurtful and cruel. They do not speak for (what I believe) is the majority of ND or this great country. DO NOT PASS THIS!!



### Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution 3013

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action  
February 17, 2025

Dear Chairman Klemin and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Mark Jorritsma, and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3013 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this resolution.

In June of 2015, SCOTUS rendered a 5-4 decision in the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision that the Fourteenth Amendment requires all states to grant same-sex marriages. There have been numerous challenges to this decision since that time, and given the current composition of SCOTUS, reversal of this decision is certainly not outside the realm of possibility. However, the decision still stands today, and I will not go into the legal aspects of same-sex marriage public policy.

I would like to speak about North Dakota and our deeply held values. The family was God-ordained at the creation of the world, and it forms the foundation of our society. From families come communities, from communities come societies, and from societies come nations and their governmental structures. It has been shown over the centuries and within a multitude of civilizations that family is the basis for a flourishing culture and society.

Given our state's expressed values in many matters of public policy in recent years, it's safe to say that the vast majority of North Dakotans see the hub of the family wheel being the marriage of husband and wife. This was certainly the case when our country and state were founded upon Judeo-Christian beliefs. These beliefs hold that marriage was created by God and is the basis for our society. Further, we believe human sexuality was designed and intended for our good within the bond of a committed, lifelong marriage between a man and woman.

If I may use something more recent and directly applicable to this issue. Seventeen days ago, the ND Senate voted down SB 2264, a bill that essentially sought to do one thing: change



# NORTH DAKOTA

## *Family Alliance* LEGISLATIVE ACTION

language throughout the Century Code so that marriage would be defined not only as a husband and wife who are biologically different, but also as two individuals who are of the same sex. The bill was soundly defeated with a 7-37 vote. While we would certainly never suggest that the ND House need simply follow the Senate's lead, or vice versa, we find it indicative that 84% of a ND legislative body voted consistent with the principles embodied in this resolution.

We support legislation that advocates for biblically-based marriages, and we oppose policy that encourages individuals to pursue alternative definitions of marriage, given that it undermines traditional marriage values and the family as an institution – something Obergefell has certainly done. House Concurrent Resolution 3013 seeks to reaffirm the traditional definition of marriage, consistent with that of our country's founding and consistent with the values we hold dear as North Dakotans. As a result, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you render a "DO PASS" on HCR 3013. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I'd be happy to stand for any questions.

Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a Do Not Pass on HRC 3013.

Allowing people to marry does not affect any other marriages. My marriage to someone of the opposite sex is not affected by someone else choosing to marry someone of the same sex. The only reason to oppose this is due to religion but there is a separation of church and state and one's religious beliefs should not affect other who do not believe in the same beliefs. I urge you to allow all to marry who want to marry.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Mari Krajewski

In Support of the following bill:

HCR 3013 - A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman

Dear Chair Klemin and the Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am writing to urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

This resolution is a waste of everyone's time. I firmly believe HRC 3013 is an injunction against the religious liberties of Americans. Marriage as an institution has changed culturally throughout time and the insistence that *Obergefell v. Hodges* "arbitrarily and unjustly rejected the definition of marriage," is ridiculous.

Every North Dakotan and every American deserves the right to marry a partner regardless of their gender, biological or otherwise.

HRC 3013 further disenfranchises the youth of America from successful and prosperous futures. We all want the future generations of North Dakota to grow up happy, healthy, and hopeful to give back to their communities, but HRC 3013 severely impacts their ability to do so if they do not have an equal opportunity to create and raise a family regardless of their romantic partner choice. I would hate to see the future children of North Dakota robbed of that freedom.

As a lifelong resident of North Dakota, I urge the Judiciary Committee to vote "DO NOT PASS" on HRC 3013. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Jayce Branden

Representative Bill Tveit

House District 33

Testimony for HCR Introduction to HCR 3013 House Judiciary Committee 17 February 2025

Chairman Klemin, Vice Chairs Karls and Vetter, fellow committee members:

For the record, I am Representative Bill Tveit, District 33, Hazen; District 33 is a huge cattle and grain production area and the heart of Coal Country. My constituents work tirelessly to put food and meat on your tables and/or keep your lights and your HVAC fully energized 24/7. District 33 consists of all of Mercer, all of Oliver and the BEST parts of McLean and Morton Counties in Western North Dakota. The District offers world-class walleye fishing, hunting and recreation, encompassing much of Lake Sakakawea's South Shore and both sides of the majestic Missouri River from Riverdale to Wilton, then unto Mandan on the west shore. \*\*\*\*\*

HCR 3013 urges the United States Supreme Court to reconsider its actions and restore marriage to a union between one man and one woman, as it always was before 2015, a mere 10 years ago.

This is a crucial step in taking back our country, our culture, and our communities.

You cannot conceive or birth children, except for the coming together of a male and a female.

You can't have a country without children, you cannot perpetuate a country without the next generation and you can't raise strong children without moms and dads. It's just that simple.

Mr. Chairman, with that said, I would like to walk you through a short history of the definition of Marriage, just a little over 6,000 years of history.

Genesis 2:20-25 NIV. (the 6th day of creation, approx 6,025 years ago)

20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam[a] no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs[b] and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib[c] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of man. 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. 25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 4: 1-2 KJV

1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. 2 And she again bare his brother Abel.

Marriage has been recognized as a covenant and an institution in Common Law between one man and one woman since Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England. The Commentaries are an influential 18th century treatise on the common law of England by Sir William Blackstone, originally published by the Clarendon Press at Oxford between 1765 and 1769.

The United States Constitution is based on English Common Law.

Though neither the US Constitution nor the Bill of Rights refer to marriage, the basis of the laws of our country were clearly defined in the:

Declaration of Independence, In Congress, July 4, 1776. (spelling and punctuation reflect the original text 249 years ago)

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

The Bill of Rights:

(the 1st 17 amendments final ratification - Dec 15, 1791; 234 years ago)



## Tenth Amendment

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

The Constitution of North Dakota ARTICLE XI, GENERAL PROVISIONS - SECTION 28:

(136 years ago)

Marriage consists only of the legal union between a man and a woman. No other domestic union, however denominated, may be recognized as a marriage or given the same or substantially equivalent legal effect.

North Dakota Century Code, Chapter 14-03 Marriage Contract (136 years ago)

14-03-01. What constitutes marriage Spouse defined

Marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between one man and one woman to which the consent of the parties is essential. The marriage relation may be entered into, maintained, annulled, or dissolved only as provided by law. A spouse refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.

The United States Supreme Court should not waive or overrule constitutional amendments in the state constitutions for light or transient reasons, nor should the Supreme Court rely on fraudulent arguments to advance their rulings.

Further, two of the Supreme Court Justices who ruled in the majority for Obergefell v Hodges had officiated same-sex weddings. They were Justice Kagan and Justice Ginsburg. Justice Kagan also actively promoted/supported LGBT rights while Dean of Harvard Law School. Those actions alone should have forced them to recuse themselves from the case. Such recusal would have led to a 4-3 decision against Obergefell and thus against same-sex marriage.

Justice Thomas and Justice Alito wrote in 2020 wrote: Due to Obergefell, those with sincerely held religious beliefs concerning marriage will find it increasingly difficult to participate in society without running afoul of Obergefell and its effect on other anti-discrimination laws.

They went on to say: It would be one thing if recognition for same-sex marriage had been debated and adopted through the democratic process, with people deciding not to provide statutory protection for religious liberty under state law, they explained. But it is quite another when the court forces that choice upon society through its creation of atextual constitutional rights and its ungenerous interpretation of the Free Exercise Claus, leaving those with religious objections in the lurch.

Mr. Chairman, Committee, it is past time for North Dakota Citizens to speak their displeasure with this Supreme Courts decision, and call for a restoration of the definition of marriage as only the legal union between a man and a woman.

I ask for a DO PASS recommendation and I will stand for any questions.

Thank you, Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary committee for the opportunity to give my testimony. My name is Karen Krenz, I am from District 1, in Williston, a wife of a rancher and a mother of 3 boys. I was a teacher and counselor for 23 years in ND. I am asking that you please RENDER a DO PASS on HRS 3013.

We live in an amazing country. Our Founding Fathers gave us the right to petition government for redress of grievances. Essentially giving the government, the opportunity to correct a wrong or fix a problem we have with a policy and seek change or action; this is a right protected under the First Amendment of the US constitution, allowing citizens to peacefully voice their concern without fear of punishment. This bill does just that.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment for the US constitution states that powers not given to the federal government are reserved to the states or the people. There is nothing in the United States Constitution regarding the definition of marriage. Justice Thomas himself wrote an opinion on this, "In Obergefell v. Hodges, the Court read a right to same-sex marriage into the Fourteenth Amendment, even though that right is found nowhere in the text. Several Members of the Court noted that the Court's decision would threaten the religious liberty of many Americans who believe that marriage is a sacred institution between one man and one woman. If the States had been allowed to resolve this question through legislation, they could have included accommodations for those who hold these religious beliefs." Therefore, it belongs to states and the people.

Our ND Senators overwhelmingly just voted on the floor Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, verifying, what constitutes as marriage, SB 2264, section 3 14-03-01. Marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between one man and one woman to which the consent of the parties is essential. The marriage relation may be entered into, maintained, annulled or dissolved only as provided by law. A spouse refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband

or wife. I think the state of ND has spoken loud and clear on the institute of marriage and the definition of it. We need to redress the US Supreme Court to reverse the decision and recognize the natural definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman; and insist on restoring the issue of marriage and enforcement of all laws pertaining to marriage back to the states and the people.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue and for your service to the state of North Dakota.

Karen Krenz

**Dear members of the 69th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,**

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013. As a resident of Minot, ND, I believe this bill is not only unnecessary but also harmful.

Both HR 8404 (117th Congress Respect for Marriage Act) and Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644, along with countless other anti-discrimination laws, have already addressed this issue. These laws are backed by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees due process and equal protection.

Bills like HCR 3013 do not reflect the majority of constituents' views. Most people in our community support equality and non-discrimination.

The 14th Amendment ensures that all individuals are treated equally under the law. Previous rulings and laws have consistently upheld this principle, making bills like HCR 3013 redundant and harmful.

While some may argue that such bills reflect certain values, they ultimately promote discrimination and division. Our state should focus on unifying and addressing real issues that affect our community.

In conclusion, I urge all members to vote against HCR 3013 to protect the rights and dignity of all North Dakotans. This bill is out of touch with our values and priorities.

I encourage all legislators to focus on issues that truly matter to our community and oppose HCR 3013.

**Sincerely,**  
N. McLaughlin

Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013.

As a woman married to another woman for 16 years and mother of two children, I can speak from personal experience about how same-sex marriage has deeply enriched our lives and provided essential rights that should be available to all couples, regardless of gender. Before marriage equality, we faced legal hurdles that made simple things like health insurance coverage, tax benefits, and inheritance rights far more complicated than they needed to be. Same-sex marriage has granted us the legal protection and recognition that affirm our commitment to each other and to our family. It ensures that we have the same rights as any other married couple to make medical decisions for one another, to share financial security, and to raise our children in an environment that legally acknowledges our love and partnership. This is not just a matter of personal comfort, but of fairness and equality—our marriage, just like any other, deserves the same respect and protection under the law.

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013 as my family, just like your own, deserves the same rights and protections as everyone else.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Becky Craigo

Beach, ND.

Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013.

I have been married to my wife for 16 years and we have build a beautiful life together, raising our two girls and being a part of our community. I’ve seen firsthand how same-sex marriage has provided crucial rights and protections. It ensures we have the legal recognition to make medical decisions, share benefits, and secure our family’s future. Same-sex marriage isn’t just about love—it’s about fairness and equality, giving us the same rights as any other couple to build and protect our lives together.

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Tiffany Craigo

Beach, ND.

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013

‘...urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.’

While the sponsors of the resolution – and likely several of your constituents- will agree with this resolution. It is my opinion is that a problem exists.

The problem is that the Supreme Court has allowed a marital union between sexes of the same sex.

This resolution asks the Supreme Court to change their mind.

It doesn’t work this way. To change a Supreme Court ruling takes far more than a resolution from ND’s legislature. There are mechanisms to accomplish this, which you should be aware.

I am embarrassed that the legislature of North Dakota doesn’t know better. This is palatable evidence of pure arrogance.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Please reject this resolution loudly!

Paul R. Hanson     Mayville ND 58257

---

To Whom It May Concern,

I ask that you kindly vote to oppose the HB 3013 to be presented on 2/17/2025. The reasoning in which this bills stands on, our original constitution, directly contradicts what our constitution calls out to be the most important American right, the freedom to choose.

This bill indicates that the decision of Obergefell v Hodges was not respecting the decision of the founding fathers of our constitution when there no factual validity to that statement. It also calls out that this causes collateral damage to other areas such as "our religious liberty" which fails to acknowledge that the churches themselves have deemed same sex marriages valid. The church in which we acknowledge is still the purest form of religion.

I would ask that you, as representatives, focus on instead what your desired outcome is. Is it a loving and healthy marriage? Is it a home that fosters love? Or is to control what you believe to be "best" without consideration of the uniqueness in the ways to obtain your desired state. The end goal is healthy and loving marriage, and no set gender definitions will provide that, that I can say for certain.

I appreciate your time and ask that you seriously ask yourself what the end goal is.. and when you've come to that answer I ask that you oppose this bill knowing that's best.



Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013.

Marriage equality has been federal law in the United States for exactly ten years.

I celebrated its passing in 2015 with the Supreme Court’s decision in Obergefell v. Hodges.

I strongly condemn this resolution, which seeks to deny a basic human right.

The right to marry must continue to be assured to all Americans, gay and straight alike.

Thank you for your service to our state,  
Mariah Ralston

To Whom It May Concern,

I ask that you kindly vote to **oppose** the HB 3013 to be presented on 2/17/2025. This bill claims to call on our construction for support. However, this bill directly contradicts what our constitution has explicitly deemed to be the most important American right, the freedom to choose.

This bill indicates that the decision of Obergefell v Hodges was "not respecting the decision of the founding fathers of our constitution", when there is no factual validity to that statement. It also calls out that this causes collateral damage to other areas such as "our religious liberty", while failing to acknowledge that the churches themselves have deemed same sex marriages valid. The church, which we acknowledge is still the purest form of religion, has deemed same sex marriage within the validity of religion.

As such, I would ask that you, as representatives, focus on instead what your desired outcome is at its core. Is it a loving and healthy marriage? Is it a home that fosters love? Or is to control what you believe to be "best", without consideration of the uniqueness in the ways to obtain your desired marriage outcome. We can agree that the end goal should be a healthy and loving marriage. Adding set gender definitions will not guarantee that, that I can say for certain.

I appreciate your time and ask that you seriously ask yourself what the end goal is.. and when you've come to that answer, I ask that you oppose this bill with the concession that this bill does not directly guarantee the desired outcome. The highest court in the land got it correct when they rendered the decision in Obergefell. I strongly urge you to respect the law of the land, and to oppose this bill.

Thank you.

**TESTIMONY OF LISA EDISON-SMITH IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION 3013**

Committee Members,

My name is Lisa Edison-Smith and I offer this testimony in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013. I am one of five generations of Edisons calling North Dakota home for over 100 years. I am a mother, grandmother, and an attorney licensed to practice law in North Dakota since 1997. I was fortunate to marry my wife, Penny Andrist, in First Presbyterian Church in Fargo nearly nine years ago. Our marriage has been a source of incalculable joy, stability, and spiritual support to both of us, our traditional families, our church family, and our families of choice.

HCR 3013 is a dangerous, misguided resolution that encourages the open defiance of the U.S. Constitution by suggesting that the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly can simply “reject[ ] the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.” This resolution is yet another example of the unceasing and tone-deaf attempts by certain “culture warriors” to divert from the real business of governing for the benefit of the people and families of the state of North Dakota.

The vilification of the LGBTQ community is genuinely hurtful and unbecoming to this committee and, in fact, unworthy of your consideration.

I urge the Committee to REJECT HCR 3013 and to get on with the business of governing for the benefit of the people of North Dakota.

LISA EDISON-SMITH  
2615 2<sup>nd</sup> ST E  
WEST FARGO, ND 58078

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HCR 3013**

House Judiciary Committee

Date of Hearing: February 17, 2025

Debra L. Hoffarth, 1320 11th Street SW, Minot, ND 58701

This written testimony is presented in opposition to HCR 3013.

Love, commitment, and family are values that everyone cherishes. Marriages are rooted in love, commitment, and shared responsibility. Extending this right to same-sex couples is not only a matter of equality but also a reflection of our shared values of fairness, dignity, and respect for all families. This resolution weakens communities, and the legal and social stability of families. The North Dakota Constitution guarantees the rights of all North Dakotans to pursue happiness. It also guarantees the free exercise of religion. The government cannot force a particular religion on its citizens.

All families have the right to respect. The rule of law must be respected. *Obergefell v. Hodges* is the law of the land.

Please oppose HCR 3013.

2/16/25, 10:15 PM

Proton Docs Editor

Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Alex Maitheanas, and I am a community organizer with a master's degree in human rights from one of the nation's top ten recognized schools of public policy and public affairs. I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

The text of this resolution is not based in facts, or is missing significant context. For example, the text of this resolution claims that Obergefell v. Hodges conflicts with the Constitution and the definition of liberty that the framers' of the document held. However, there is no proof of the latter, and the Constitution at the time of being written was considered to be a living document anyway- meaning that it, and its interpretation, would need to grow and change as the country did. Therefore, these claims have no proof or relevant basis.

You also claim that marriage is and was only between men and women for two thousand years. This is not correct on a global scale, and never will be. Same-sex couples have always existed, with many notable examples in ancient Rome and ancient Greece. By claiming this has almost always been this way, you are erasing or ignoring history, and at the same time, ignoring how marriage and relationships are treated and viewed very differently depending on existing cultural contexts.

Furthermore, there is reference to the Declaration of Independence and that all men hold certain unalienable rights related to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If all men hold these rights, that does include gay people, and therefore, they should not be subjugated to oppression by denying LGBTQ+ people to marry- as that would be a direct threat to the pursuit of happiness- and therefore violate the unalienable rights. While you claim the judicial branch does not create policy, the judicial branch is part of the checks and balances system. The judicial branch did its role in ensuring that LGBTQ+ people could still access their unalienable rights through realizing that preventing marriage between same-sex couples would violate those rights and is not an overreach.

Due to attempted human rights violations and incorrect statements being included in this resolution, I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

Sincerely,

Alex Maitheanas

Good morning, Chair Klemin and House Judiciary Committee. My name is Rachel Sinness and today I am testifying as a citizen of the State of North Dakota in opposition to HCR 3013.

I am the proud mother of two smart, kind, and talented children who are active in their schools. I am an attorney, musician, and teacher. I volunteer and have been a leader and entrepreneur in my community. In the past, I even campaigned and knocked on my neighbors' doors to ask how I could better serve North Dakota. I was raised in North Dakota, attended North Dakota schools for undergraduate and law school, and remained in North Dakota to pursue my career and raise my family.

My spouse is one of the most giving, compassionate, and beautiful human beings I know, who works hard and gives back to our community; coaches our son's baseball team; genuinely cares for others and never hesitates to lend a helping hand; rescues animals; who just last week helped save a woman's life in a vehicle accident; and who has literally given the shirt off their back to others in need. Together, we do our best every day to teach our children to be kind, giving, and thoughtful individuals who also contribute to their community.

That said, my spouse and I have committed our lives and contributed in positive ways to better our state in much the same way as so many other North Dakotans. The only thing that might set us apart from a majority of other North Dakotans is that we are both women. Why are we less worthy of having our marriage recognized in our own community and state, to which we have contributed so much? Why should we not be afforded the same legal recognition?

Legally, this Resolution will not take away my marriage. Not now, or not yet anyway. Its language feigns to make a neutral point about judiciary overreach; it proposes that legislators, not the judiciary, are the proper arbiters of whether certain rights are granted to their constituents. Ironically, its whereas clauses—numbers 3 and 4, namely—also reiterate that dignity is “innate” and “all men are created equal.” Ostensibly, the legislature, as the arbiter, alone decides whom has innate dignity and which men are created equally.

In short, the Resolution insists that the “issue of marriage” is one that should go back to the state—“the people,” while simultaneously pontificating about the only definition of marriage that its authors find acceptable: that marriage is between one man and one woman. Period. Despite the fact that “the people,” to the tune of 59% of North Dakotans, favor a broader definition of marriage. [www.prii.org/research/views-on-lgbtq-rights-in-all-50-states/](http://www.prii.org/research/views-on-lgbtq-rights-in-all-50-states/)

I am first and foremost a mother. A wife. An attorney, musician, and teacher. A North Dakotan. And I plead with you today also as a member of the LGBTQ+ community to not be fooled by the insincere rationale of “overreach” touted by this Resolution. Please don’t legislate away what little dignity and equality we’ve been allowed thus far. And finally, please don’t let us resent giving so much of ourselves to this state; legislation like this sends an insulting message that despite our contributions to or sacrifices for North Dakota, its lawmakers don’t care to protect us the same as everyone else.

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write to you today regarding HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3013 and ask you to vote NO on this resolution.

I recently celebrated my 22nd wedding anniversary and I feel blessed that I have had the opportunity to marry and have children. I have friends and family members who are members of the LGBTQ+ community and I am so glad that the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015, allows my queer family and friends to marry and enjoy the social recognition and many legal benefits that come from access to marriage. Limiting marriage to only heterosexual couples is simply discriminatory.

Estimates suggest there were as many as 904,000 same-sex marriages in the U.S. by 2022 (see [Jones, 2022](#)). Why would we work to invalidate these families and prevent others from being able to make the same decision? Allowing same-sex couples to marry does not impact your religious beliefs or commitments. In addition, if you value marriage, then shouldn't we work to expand and protect access to legal marriage for ALL couples, not just heterosexual couples?

Research on the benefits of access to marriage for same-sex couples shows improved psychological well-being, greater relationship stability, better physical health and expanded health insurance coverage, greater financial security, and better outcomes for children ([Karney, 2024](#)). These outcomes benefit more than individual LGBTQ+ couples - they benefit us all!

The majority of Americans support same-sex marriage. This is also true among many religious people. For example, according to the PEW Research Center, in 2022, 62% of White non-evangelical Protestants said access to same-sex marriage was good as well as 66% of Catholics. Even 62% of moderate and liberal Republicans support same-sex marriage rights (see [PEW, 2022](#)).

Given all the mounting evidence on the benefits of marriage for LGBTQ+ couples, and increasing public support, why would we work to go back and restrict access to this important legal and social status?

If we truly value marriage and family, then we ought to support marriage equality and the right to marry for all.

Please do the right thing and vote NO on HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3013.

Sincerely,

Liz Legerski  
Grand Forks, ND





*Representing the Diocese of Fargo  
and the Diocese of Bismarck*

103 South Third Street  
Suite 10  
Bismarck ND 58501  
701-223-2519  
ndcatholic.org  
ndcatholic@ndcatholic.org

**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**From:** David Tamisiea, Executive Director  
**Subject:** House Concurrent Resolution 3013 - Marriage Is Between a Man and a Woman  
**Date:** February 17, 2025

The North Dakota Catholic Conference supports House Concurrent Resolution 3013 insofar as it urges the United States Supreme Court to restore the legal definition of marriage to be exclusively a union between one man and one woman.

Marriage by its very nature is a union between a man and a woman. It is not just a social construct that stands for any relationship between human beings, and it is more than a mere contract. Rather, marriage is a fundamental human and social institution established by God (Gen 1:27-28, 2:18-24; Matt 19:4-6).

Marriage was not created by the government nor by any particular religious group. This is evident from the fact that marriage between a man and a woman is found in every culture throughout the world across all of human history. While the government can regulate marriage, and religions can celebrate and sanctify marriage, neither can “redefine” marriage to be something it is not.

Since marriage has a God-given nature, it also has inherent purposes. It is almost self-evident that marriage is for the good of the spouses and for the bringing forth and raising children. No ideology can erase the fact that marriage is between a man and a woman, who by a mutual and total self-gift to each other, form an intimate communion of persons. In this way, the husband and wife form an exclusive bond and union, both to support and perfect each other, and to cooperate with God in procreating and raising children.

Marriage as a natural institution with these unitive and procreative purposes is rooted in the natural sexual complementarity of being male and being female. The sexual differences between a man and a woman run much deeper than cultural stereotypes - e.g., men can be kind and women can be strong. Being male or being female affects a person at the deepest levels of his or her existence: genetically, biologically, emotionally, psychologically, and socially. These deep-seated sexual differences make it possible for a man and a woman to unite in a full and complementary way.

Same-sex unions, on the other hand, lack the natural sexual complementarity found in marriage that is necessary for full union and procreative fruitfulness. Homosexual acts “close the sexual act to the gift of life and do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual

complementarity” that is at the very foundation of marriage (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2357). Homosexual couples may have genuine love and commitment to each other, but this love and commitment does not, and cannot, make their relationship a marriage.

The Supreme Court in the *Obergefell* decision wrongfully arrogated to itself the authority to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples. This decision is not rooted in the truth about marriage. Regardless of what the Supreme Court ruled, the nature of marriage between one man and one woman remains unchanged and unchangeable. The *Obergefell* decision was a tragic mistake that has caused great confusion and undermined the institution of marriage. It is also harmful to the common good because marriage is the foundation for the family, and the family is the basic cell of society. And as St. John Paul II famously once said, “the future of humanity passes by way of the family” (*Familiaris Consortio* 86).

In closing, let me state that our position is not motivated by animosity toward homosexual persons. The Catholic Church insists that society respect the dignity of all persons, including those with a homosexual orientation. Homosexual persons have a right to and deserve our respect, compassion, and understanding. We strongly condemn attacks, abuse, and unjust discrimination based on sexual orientation. Upholding the dignity of all persons is not, however, inconsistent with upholding the essential institution of marriage.

We urge a **Do Pass** recommendation on House Concurrent Resolution 3013.

To the members of the House Judiciary

I write this testimony in immense opposition to HRC 3013.

First and foremost, I find it appalling that we are spending ongoing tax payer dollars on performative measures for matters only recently settled in the country's highest court. It is a gross misappropriation of resources and nothing more than an excuse to drum up distractive conversation from real issues that need work.

Secondly, this matter has already been decided in recent history. Consenting adults that form a union in no way negatively impacts another person who is not in that union. More marriages are good for the economy-driving much needed business in North Dakota. Same sex marriage is widely supported- 71% of people nationwide support while only 28% strongly oppose according to the 2022 American Values Atlas by Public Religion Research Institute. Most of that 28% was based on a religious tenant- which given separation of church and state, cannot be the foundation of any given law.

Since the passing of Obergefell, people of religious beliefs that do not align with same sex marriage have continued to bear children, engage in society, or have their beliefs stripped from them. Every adult in this country can make a choice based on their beliefs-whether the person next to them agrees with them or not. Why take away rights from such a small minority of people- what does that really serve? Same-sex couples were 1.2% of all households with married couples in 2021, according to the latest American Community Survey data.

I cannot imagine the benefit of such a resolution to anyone. It is archaic and riddled with bigotry and fear. North Dakotans are not people who base our code of conduct on fear. If we are going to say we are a place for families, a place that welcomes, and place where people look out for one another then I urge you to give this a swift Do Not Pass recommendation.

Chairman and committee members:

I am writing this statement in opposition to HCR 3013. I encourage you to give a "do not pass" recommendation for HCR 3013.

The best thing that can happen to us in life is to love someone and be loved.

Who other people love or marry does not impact my health or happiness. In fact, if someone is happy and enjoying life, it only brings me joy.

The life we live on this earth is short. I don't care if you're a woman, a man, non-binary, black, white, purple, or transgender. What I do care about is that you're able to live life happily and at peace, married to the person you love.

Love is love. My parents instilled this in me from my earliest memories and I am so thankful. My life is certainly better because of it. I encourage you to ask yourself how a loving relationship in a different household impacts your daily life. It doesn't.

I stand strongly in opposition to HCR 3013 and stand strongly WITH the LGBTQ+ in my neighborhood, in my state, and in our country.

Respectfully,

A white woman born and raised in ND married to a white man

Allison Harrison

2/17/25

Chair Klemin and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge DO NOT PASS on HCR 3013.

Cindy Roholt  
D45 Resident  
701-566-1143

**Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013****Christina Sambor, North Dakota Human Rights Coalition, Lobbyist No. 312****House Judiciary Committee****February 17, 2025**

Chairman Klemin and Members of the Committee:

The North Dakota Human Rights Coalition opposes HCR 3013 and strongly urges this committee to recommend a do not pass. North Dakota should protect the rights of and extend acceptance and kindness to all its citizens. This resolution seeks to do the opposite. The ideas put forth in this resolution are extraordinarily harmful to many North Dakotans and Americans who deserve equal rights and respect.

The idea that same sex families are in any way less stable and beneficial to our State and Country than opposite-sex families has been disproven in courts, that is how Obergefell came about. Courts have the power to review legislation and determine whether it complies with our Constitution. North Dakota's Constitution contains **more** protections for individual liberty and the pursuit of happiness than the US Constitution. When laws are passed based on discriminatory attitudes or the desire to impose one form of religion on all citizens and fail to advance any actual interests of the government, they are deemed unconstitutional. That is why the Supreme Court upheld the determination that excluding same sex couples from the ability to legally marry was unconstitutional. Americans' political views support Obergefell and the recognition of same sex marriage. Including same sex couples in the group of Americans who can benefit from the legal recognition of their marriage is vitally important. Taking that inclusion away would take away many tangible benefits for no good reason, including tax benefits, rights to make end of life decisions, and rights to inherit property. Marriage is not solely a religious institution. It is an important legal union that deserves to be enjoyed by those who seek to enter into it.

Furthermore, the testimony of the prime sponsor examines North Dakotans' right to marriage based on his understanding of biblical text and based on legal principles that are hundreds of years old. It is good for the members of this body to consider the dangers and flaws of relying on governing principles and documents drafted hundreds of years ago that were created without the perspectives of women, Native Americans, Black Americans or people who were prohibited from owning property.

This perspective – strict “originalism” - seeks to return us to rules and laws that written at a time when most people were excluded from being represented in government. By that logic, we are setting a standard that also argues for removing women from public office and only allows white people to have a role in government. Indigenous people, who lived here well before the “anglo-american” system of government was established by Europeans who immigrated to, and eventually violently seized, land occupied by indigenous people, were totally excluded from forming the United States Government. The North Dakota State Legislature, whose membership includes many women and people of color, should not ignore that the arguments advanced in the prime sponsor's testimony, when taken to their logical exclusion, argue that only people like him, who believe what he does, deserve a voice in our government. That is not who we are, nor who we should seek to be. Please recommend a do not pass on HCR 3013.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Judiciary Committee**  
Room JW327B, State Capitol

HCR 3013  
2/17/2025

A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

3:43 p.m. Chairman Klemin opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Klemin, Vice-Chairman Vetter, Representatives Christianson, Henderson, Hoverson, Johnston, S. Olson, Satrom, Tveit, VanWinkle, Wolff, Schneider

Members Absent: Vice-Chairman Karls, Representative McLeod

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Overturning of Supreme Court rulings
- Consequences of the bill
- Committee action

3:44 p.m. Representative Hoverson moved a Do Pass.

3:44 p.m. Representative Wolff seconded the motion.

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Karen Karls	A
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Jeff Hoverson	Y
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	A
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	N
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

3:52 p.m. Motion passed 11-1-2

3:53 p.m. Representative Tveit will carry the bill.

3:54 p.m. Chairman Klemin closed the hearing.

*Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HCR 3013 ([25.3059.04000](#))**

**Judiciary Committee (Rep. Klemin, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3013 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.



**2025 SENATE JUDICIARY**

**HCR 3013**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Judiciary Committee**  
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HCR 3013  
3/12/2025

A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

3:15 p.m. Chair Larson opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chair Larson, Vice Chairman Paulson, Senators: Castaneda, Cory, Luick, Myrdal, Braunberger.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Definition of marriage
- Historical context of marriage laws
- Community values and societal cohesion
- Religious beliefs and interpretations
- Impact on LGBTQ+ rights and recognition

3:16 p.m. Representative Bill Tveit introduced the bill and submitted testimony in favor #41138.

3:32 p.m. Arthur Schaper, MassResistance, testified in favor and submitted #40282.

3:39 p.m. David A. Tamisiea, Executive Director, North Dakota Catholic Conference, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40795.

3:45 p.m. Representative Maki, District 26, testified in favor.

3:46 p.m. Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director, ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40764.

3:49 p.m. Representative Jeff Hoverson, District 3, testified in favor.

3:50 p.m. Paris C. King testified in favor and submitted testimony #40920.

3:57 p.m. David A. Kendall, Founder, I Belong Amen, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41050.

4:03 p.m. Representative Matt Ruby, District 40, testified in opposition.

4:07 p.m. Cody Schuler, ACLU, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #41059.

4:09 p.m. Bradley King, Doctor, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #41139.

4:16 p.m. Christina A. Sambor, Lobbyist #312, ND Human Rights Coalition, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #41064.

4:18 p.m. Chelsea Gagner testified in opposition and submitted testimony #39633.

4:19 p.m. Laura Balliet testified in opposition and submitted testimony #40641.

4:23 p.m. Hannah Carlson testified in opposition and submitted testimony #40162.

4:26 p.m. Kevin R. Tengesdal testified in opposition and submitted testimony #39643.

4:30 p.m. Michelle Holman testified in opposition and submitted testimony #40114.

4:31 p.m. Maria M. Mack testified in opposition and submitted testimony #41037.

4:34 p.m. Brooklyn K. Anderson testified in opposition and submitted testimony #40551.

4:38 p.m. Rebecca Young Suttan testified in opposition.

4:41 p.m. Mary Adams testified in opposition.

4:42 p.m. Jessie SM. Grounds testified in opposition and submitted testimony #40642.

4:46 p.m. Andrea M. Grigsby testified in opposition and submitted testimony #40777.

4:49 p.m. Nicole Morrison testified in opposition and submitted testimony #40587.

4:51 p.m. Chair Larson closed the hearing.

4:56 p.m. Senator Luick moved a WCR.

4:56 p.m. Senator Cory seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	N
Senator Jose L. Casteneda	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y

Motion Passed 6-1-0.

5:00 p.m. Chair Larson will carry the bill.

**Additional written testimony:**

#40661, #40663, #40667, #40749, #40751, #40685, #39611, #39613, #39614, #39620,  
#39621, #39622, #39627, #39628, #39631, #39635, #39639, #39652, #39662, #39664,  
#39676, #39678, #39680, #39681, #39682, #39683, #39687, #39696, #39697, #39699,  
#39710, #39712, #39717, #39718, #39733, #39736, #39746, #39751, #39759, #39765,  
#39769, #39772, #40689, #39785, #39805, #39807, #39815, #39887, #39891, #39897,  
#39905, #39923, #39929, #39980, #39983, #39996, #40006, #40036, #40046, #40048,  
#40050, #40052, #40062, #40064, #40073, #40074, #40080, #40098, #40102, #40118,  
#40124, #40129, #40159, #40173, #40195, #40202, #40206, #40220, #40229, #40233,  
#40240, #40247, #40248, #40272, #40275, #40278, #40279, #40281, #40287, #40288,  
#40301, #40306, #40318, #40319, #40337, #40340, #40349, #40355, #40357, #40362,  
#40365, #40366, #40367, #40368, #40373, #40378, #40386, #40418, #40440, #40442,  
#40464, #40476, #40496, #40509, #40520, #40526, #40542, #40547, #40557, #40559,  
#40560, #40568, #40571, #40574, #40583, #40589, #40590, #40591, #40594, #40597,  
#40598, #40620, #40621, #40626, #40637, #40692, #40657, #40696, #40698, #40700,  
#40702, #40704, #40705, #40711, #40712, #40716, #40720, #40722, #40727, #40732,  
#40735, #40736, #40737, #40738, #40739, #40740, #40742, #40744, #40746, #40747,  
#40750, #40755, #40757, #40758, #40761, #40766, #40767, #40768, #40770, #40771,  
#40773, #40774, #40776, #40778, #40780, #40782, #40783, #40788, #40794, #40797,  
#40799, #40801, #40804, #40808, #40818, #40819, #40821, #40822, #40825, #40826,  
#40827, #40838, #40839, #40840, #40844, #40847, #40850, #40852, #40853, #40860,  
#40861, #40863, #40864, #40870, #40874, #40875, #40876, #40882, #40887, #40892,  
#40910, #40919, #40922, #40924, #40925, #40926, #40927, #40929, #40931, #40932,  
#40935, #40938, #40940, #40945, #40946, #40951, #40953, #40959, #40960, #40961,  
#40962, #40973, #40975, #40977, #40978, #40979, #40980, #40982, #40983, #40985,  
#40987, #40990, #40994, #40999, #41001, #41006, #41009, #41010, #41011, #41013,  
#41016, #41017, #41020, #41025, #41026, #41027, #41033, #41035, #41044, #41045,  
#41046, #41048, #41049, #41052, #41053, #41054, #41055, #41056, #41057, #41058,  
#41061, #41063, #41067, #41070, #41073, #41074, #41076, #41077, #41078, #41079,  
#41081.

5:01 p.m. Chair Larson adjourned.

*Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HCR 3013 ([25.3059.04000](#))**

**Judiciary Committee (Sen. Larson, Chairman)** recommends the measure **BE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION** (6 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3013 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.

HCR 3013 is nothing more than an attempt at Government overreach, seeking to strip rights from a particular class of people for no reason other than religious intolerance and a misunderstanding of basic biology. An individual may choose not to engage in a same sex relationship and/or marriage, but they have no right to deny that choice to others, never mind to demand the government do so for them.

Stripping marriage rights from any class of people for any reason will cause more chaos and disruption and instability across the country and while I recognize that for the authors of this resolution, the proposition of driving same sex couples from the state is a feature rather than a bug, ultimately it will only impose undue hardship on their fellow residents/citizens and cause workforce retention issues across the state.

And, of course, it goes without saying that it would be absolutely impossible to enforce, as the natural biology of sex and gender does not adhere to a binary, no matter how desperately the authors of this resolution and certain members of the SCOTUS would prefer it to be otherwise.

In short: This resolution is a giant waste of time and tax payer money, defies all reason and science, seeks to infringe upon the freedom and liberty of others, and should NOT be passed in the State Senate or anywhere else.

Hello, my name is Abigail Grossman, and I am a constituent from Abercrombie, ND.

I am writing to you to express my support for Obergefell v. Hodges and marriage equality. I believe that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, deserves to be able to marry the person they love. This ruling is not just a legal matter, it's a fundamental issue of basic human rights and dignity.

I am concerned about the recent resolution, HCR 3013 from North Dakota lawmakers calling for the Supreme court to overturn this decision. This threatens the progress we have made towards equality, and will also open more doors towards discrimination towards our LGBTQ+ individuals.

Please vote NO on HCR 3013 and remind our representatives of the importance of standing up for the rights of ALL Americans.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Abigail Grossman  
701 Broadway  
Abercrombie, ND 58001  
[Abigailg.5@hotmail.com](mailto:Abigailg.5@hotmail.com)  
701-230-5344

Hello, my name is Brady Martin, and I am a constituent from Abercrombie, ND.

I am writing to you to express my support for Obergefell v. Hodges and marriage equality. I believe that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, deserves to be able to marry the person they love. This ruling is not just a legal matter, it's a fundamental issue of basic human rights and dignity.

I am concerned about the recent resolution, HCR 3013 from North Dakota lawmakers calling for the Supreme court to overturn this decision. This threatens the progress we have made towards equality, and will also open more doors towards discrimination towards our LGBTQ+ individuals.

Please vote NO on HCR 3013 and remind our representatives of the importance of standing up for the rights of ALL Americans.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brady Martin  
701 Broadway  
Abercrombie, ND 58001  
walrus3231@gmail.com  
701-740-3231



Senate Judiciary Committee  
HCR 3013  
March 12, 2025

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

My name is Katie Christensen Mineer. I am a parent, educator, and active community member in Fargo. I submit this testimony in opposition to HCR 3013.

There are many reasons to oppose this resolution, starting with the simple truth that all people deserve to love and be loved. Resolutions like this do real harm—not just to those in same-sex marriages, but to our entire state.

This resolution sends an unwelcoming message that makes it harder to recruit and retain quality workers, weakening our workforce and economy. It also contributes to a culture that isolates and harms young people, who already face higher rates of bullying and stigma.

North Dakota has real challenges to address—our time and energy should be spent on issues that actually matter to the people of this state, not on divisive resolutions that deny dignity and respect to our neighbors.

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

Sincerely,  
Katie Christensen Mineer  
Fargo, ND  
[katierose0620@gmail.com](mailto:katierose0620@gmail.com)  
701.388.7369

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Xavier Scholze

## **\*\*The Crucial Role of Same-Sex Marriage for My Children\*\***

Same-sex marriage plays an indispensable role in the lives of my children, both biological and stepchildren, by providing them with stability, security, and access to crucial resources like insurance and financial support. As a parent, my marriage is not just a personal commitment, but a lifeline for my family's wellbeing, particularly for my stepdaughter who has type 1 diabetes. My children's health and financial security depend on the rights, protections, and benefits that come with my marriage, which would be compromised if my marriage were not recognized.

The benefits of marriage are particularly evident in the realm of healthcare. My insurance coverage is critical for my biological children, as it ensures they receive medical care when needed. However, the stakes are even higher for my stepdaughter, who requires consistent medical attention due to her type 1 diabetes. Managing her condition involves expensive and ongoing treatments, regular doctor visits, and the need for specialized care. Without the security of health insurance from my marriage, my stepdaughter would be vulnerable to financial hardship, and the consequences for her health could be dire. In a society where health disparities already affect marginalized communities, the right to secure health coverage through marriage cannot be overstated.

Additionally, my stepchildren's financial stability heavily relies on the support I provide, as their biological fathers do not contribute to their wellbeing. It is through my marriage that they are guaranteed access to the resources necessary to lead stable lives, including financial assistance, health insurance, and a reliable support network. My commitment to my stepchildren is more than emotional—it's practical. Without the framework of marriage, which legally binds me to them, their access to insurance and financial support would be precarious. In many cases, non-biological parents of children in same-sex relationships are not entitled to such protections unless the marriage is recognized. This could leave my children exposed to gaps in coverage, legal uncertainty, and diminished security in their day-to-day lives.

Moreover, the financial wellbeing of my family extends beyond just insurance coverage. Through my marriage, I ensure that all of my children—biological and step—have access to benefits that contribute to their overall financial stability, including the ability to inherit assets, file joint tax returns, and receive government support if needed. My marriage provides them with the same rights and opportunities as children in different-sex marriages, ensuring they have the financial safety net that every child deserves. Without the legal recognition of my marriage, these opportunities could be denied, further increasing the vulnerability of my family.

In conclusion, the recognition of my same-sex marriage is absolutely crucial for the wellbeing of my children. It is not just a matter of personal rights but of providing them with the financial and healthcare security they need to thrive. From ensuring my stepdaughter's diabetes care to guaranteeing all my children access to necessary resources, my marriage is vital in supporting the stability and future of my family. Legal recognition of same-sex marriage is not only a matter of fairness but a vital protection that ensures every child has access to the rights and resources they deserve.

## Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013

Submitted by Luke H. Wallace

March 8, 2025

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong opposition to HCR 3013, a resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to redefine marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman. This resolution does not reflect the values of equality, fairness, or the fundamental principles of freedom upon which this country was built.

Marriage is a fundamental right that should not be restricted based on gender. The Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) affirmed that same-sex couples are entitled to the same dignity, legal protections, and recognition as opposite-sex couples. Overturning this precedent would strip countless individuals of their legal rights, disrupt families, and send a harmful message that some relationships are less valid than others.

Denying same-sex couples the right to marry does not protect traditional marriage—it only serves to discriminate. Families headed by same-sex couples are just as loving, stable, and capable of raising children in a nurturing environment as any other family. Love, commitment, and family values are not exclusive to heterosexual couples.

Moreover, public opinion has overwhelmingly shifted in favor of marriage equality. A significant majority of Americans support the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals to marry whom they love. Laws should reflect the will of the people, not impose outdated and exclusionary definitions of marriage that serve no purpose other than to alienate a portion of the population.

Instead of revoking rights, we should be focused on policies that promote inclusivity, economic growth, and social stability. Discrimination in any form has no place in our legal system. I urge you to reject HCR 3013 and stand for the fundamental principle that all Americans, regardless of whom they love, deserve equal rights under the law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Luke H. Wallace

Owasso, Oklahoma

# Opposition to North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013)

North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013) is a misguided and harmful attempt to undermine the constitutional rights of same-sex couples and challenge the landmark *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision. In recent polling in the state of North Dakota, commissioned by the North Dakota News Cooperative, only 36% of North Dakotans support the overturning of same-sex marriage. There is something profoundly and morally wrong with our legislation when they seek to openly defy the will of the residents of the state, such as what we're seeing with the introduction of this small-minded and regressive bill.

This resolution, which seeks to redefine marriage as a union exclusively between one man and one woman, is not only an attack on the LGBTQ+ community but also a direct violation of the principles of equality, civil rights, and legal precedent.

To state it plainly, the presence of this bill is in direct defiance of the will of the people in North Dakota (with 66% of North Dakotans in support of upholding the 2015 Supreme Court ruling) and, on a personal note, as a straight white woman, I can't think of a single moment in time (**not one**) where the marriage between two same-sex people has **ever** inhibited my ability to lead a full and happy life. ***In fact, it's absolutely none of my business who someone wants to marry.***

What I will say is that bills like 3013, which aim to undermine fair and equal rights for everyone, directly affects my happiness and takes time away from my family having to draft responses to the lunacy. Not once has the presence of a same-sex couple in my community ever taken time from my loved ones, but this narrow-minded bill—along with many others recently introduced—certainly has. Rehashing these decisions is a flagrant waste of taxpayer dollars and our valuable time.

While I understand Representative Tveit represents Hazen North Dakota, a city of just under 3,000, I wonder what considerations he has given to the financial impact of this bill to our service industry in larger areas like Fargo and Bismarck? Beyond the economic implications, what does this bill say about North Dakota as a whole? That we're an unwelcoming state with archaic beliefs? Consider the broader impact, which I've outlined below:

## Discrimination and Harmful Consequences

HCR 3013 fosters discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals and sends a harmful message that their relationships are invalid or inferior. Marriage equality is not simply a symbolic issue; it



has real-world implications for families, including rights related to healthcare, inheritance, adoption, taxation, and social security benefits. **Attempting to strip away these rights would cause direct harm to thousands of legally married same-sex couples and their families in North Dakota and beyond.**

Additionally, this resolution could open the door to further rollbacks of civil rights, setting a dangerous precedent for undermining other Supreme Court rulings that protect marginalized communities. It also places North Dakota in opposition to the majority of Americans who support marriage equality, as reflected in national polling data.

## **Economic and Social Implications**

Beyond its legal and ethical failings, HCR 3013 would have significant negative economic consequences. North Dakota businesses, particularly those seeking to attract and retain a diverse and talented workforce, would struggle to compete in an increasingly inclusive and progressive job market. Companies and investors often look for states that embrace diversity and nondiscrimination policies, and passing a resolution like HCR 3013 would deter economic growth and development in the state.

**Moreover, the mental and emotional toll on LGBTQ+ individuals—particularly youth—cannot be overstated.** Studies consistently show that policies and rhetoric that invalidate LGBTQ+ identities contribute to higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among this community. North Dakota should be working toward inclusivity and support for all its residents, rather than enacting measures that foster exclusion and harm.

## **Conclusion**

HCR 3013 is a regressive and discriminatory resolution that seeks to roll back the progress made in ensuring equal rights for all Americans. The Supreme Court has already affirmed that marriage equality is a constitutional right, and no state should attempt to undermine this fundamental freedom. North Dakota lawmakers should reject this resolution and instead focus on policies that promote equality, inclusion, and economic prosperity for all residents.

We call on the North Dakota Senate to oppose HCR 3013 and stand on the right side of history by upholding the values of fairness, dignity, and legal equality for all individuals, regardless of whom they love.

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge you to **oppose HCR 3013**. The resolution goes against the will of the people. Surveys have shown that the majority of the people of North Dakota support marriage equality. This bill infringes on the rights of people and should be opposed.

Respectfully,  
Ashley Ladbury Hrichena



Dear Chair Larson and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a DO NOT pass on HCR 3013, a resolution that seeks to undermine the fundamental human rights of same-sex couples in North Dakota. As a lifelong resident of this state, I've seen firsthand the impact of discriminatory policies on our community.

My wife and I have been together for 15 incredible years, and we were finally able to get married in 2015 after the Supreme Court's landmark decision in Obergefell v. Hodges. This September, we'll be celebrating 10 years of marriage with a vow renewal ceremony, a testament to the enduring power of our love.

Growing up in a Catholic household, I was taught to treat every person with kindness, dignity, and respect, regardless of their differences. It's this values-driven approach that guides my opposition to HCR 3013. By seeking to redefine marriage as solely between a man and a woman, this resolution would strip away the basic human rights of same-sex couples, undermining the very fabric of our community.

North Dakota has long been known for North Dakota Nice hospitality and North Dakota Be Legendary spirit. Yet, by advancing this resolution, we risk sending a harmful message that our state only welcomes those who conform to a narrow, outdated definition of marriage. I urge you to consider the real-life consequences of this resolution and the devastating impact it would have on families like mine.

Instead of supporting discrimination, I urge you to stand up for the rights and dignity of all North Dakotans, regardless of their sexual orientation. Vote against HCR 3013 and send a powerful message that our state values love, equality, and justice for all.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,  
Chelsea Gagner

# Opposition to North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013)

North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013), is a misguided effort to sway the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) to deny an entire class of Americans the right to self-determination as it pertains to their marital status, as well as the rights and privileges afforded by that status. Rescinding these rights and privileges will have a very real and very detrimental effect on the individuals and families they protect. People will lose the right to be covered under their spouse's health insurance, will lose the right to make important decisions, life and death decisions, on their spouse's behalf, as well as dozens more rights and privileges that those of us who this resolution does not target may very well take for granted. This is not a game, it is not merely performative, nor is it an rhetorical exercise. It will have very real negative effects on North Dakota citizens and families for no good reason. It punishes them for being different, which is completely un-American.

Besides being an egregious erosion of those rights, the philosophical and logical underpinnings of HCR 3013 are deeply flawed, and are argued in bad faith. The resolution text cites 2,000 years of culture and 800 years of common law, as well as falsely (some might say blasphemously) purporting to speak to the wishes of our Creator. Using the same logic laid out in HCR 3013, and in fact, by changing a just a small subset of the text, the same arguments therein could be used to forward a resolution in support of, amongst other things, denying women the right to vote, for example, or even supporting the legalization of chattel slavery, both of which have long cultural and common law traditions, but that we now recognize as immoral and wrong.

Once we strip away all of the bad faith arguments, appeals to invalid authority (both legal and divine), the remaining scant justification for overturning the right to same-sex marriage is nothing more than veiled discrimination of a class of people who are different than the sponsors. This archaic and hateful resolution should never have seen the light of day, and as a resident of the state of North Dakota, I am ashamed that such a resolution, supported by a small group of sponsors whose views do not represent the majority of the residents of this state, might potentially have the power of the name of my state and yours behind it.

For all these reasons, and many others, this resolution should not pass.

Subject: Opposition to HCR 3013 – A Threat to Marriage Equality and Basic Rights

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013, which seeks to petition the Supreme Court to overturn marriage equality. As a resident of North Dakota, I have had the privilege of meeting many LGBTQIA+ individuals who contribute immeasurably to our communities. They are our teachers, healthcare workers, business owners, first responders, neighbors, and friends—people who make North Dakota a better place for all of us. By advocating for a ban on marriage equality, this resolution sends a cruel and unjust message that these valued members of our state are not welcome here.

Marriage is a fundamental right, and attempting to strip that away from a specific group of people is a dangerous overreach. This resolution does not simply target marriage equality—it sets a troubling precedent for what rights could be revoked next. If the state can deny LGBTQIA+ individuals the right to marry, what is to stop future challenges to interracial marriage, interfaith marriage, or other personal freedoms that have long been recognized as essential to our democracy?

History has shown us that legislating discrimination does not strengthen communities; it divides them. The Supreme Court has already ruled on this matter in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, affirming that love, commitment, and family are not privileges to be granted to a select few but rights that belong to all. Reopening this debate does nothing to serve the people of North Dakota. Instead, it puts our state on the wrong side of history, tarnishing its reputation as a place that values fairness and equality.

At a time when North Dakota should be focusing on economic growth, education, healthcare, and infrastructure, it is disheartening to see lawmakers prioritize efforts to strip rights away from law-abiding citizens who simply want to live their lives in peace. The LGBTQIA+ community is not harming anyone by marrying the person they love—so why should our state seek to harm them?

I urge you to reject HCR 3013 and stand for the principles of freedom, equality, and dignity for all North Dakotans. We are stronger as a state when we uplift each other rather than tear each other down. Please do not allow fear and discrimination to dictate our laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Senate Judiciary Public Hearing  
 Wednesday, March 12, 2023, 3:15pm  
 Peace Garden Room - North Dakota State Capitol

OPPOSING HCR 3013: A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

Please include with the Committee Hearing testimony journal for public record.

Chair Senator Diane Larson (District 30 | R), Vice Chair Senator Bob Paulson (District 3 | R), Committee Member Senators Ryan Braunberger (District 10 | D), Jose L. Castaneda (District 40 | R), Claire Cory (District 42 | R), Larry Luick (District 25 | R), and Janne Myrdal (District 19 | R)

My name is Kevin R. Tengesdal, and I am from Bismarck. As a tax-paying citizen of North Dakota, as a veteran who swore an oath to uphold the Constitution, and as a Christian who is gay, I write this letter in opposition to North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 as presented, or amended.

This resolution “urges the United States Supreme Court to overturn the decision and leave unaddressed the natural definition of marriage as a union between one man, a biological male, and one woman, a biological female;” and “insists on restoring the issue of marriage and enforcement of all laws pertaining to marriage back to the states and the people.”

The passage of HCR 3013 by the House does not have any direct impact on my life. I am not married, and I doubt I will ever be. That is neither here nor there. But, emotionally, it has wrecked me. Hard. I cannot even imagine the deep pain of those this bill does directly affect, hearing that your marriage is no longer valid and must be called anything but. Can you not understand and empathize with this emotional turmoil that this resolution is causing to LGBT citizens?

A resolution letter does not have the teeth that a law does, is what people say. However, this resolution does have the poisonous sting of bigotry and hatred. It sends out the message that we are not wanted. If you do not hear that message, I so do wish I had your ears of privilege. This resolution is just one of several anti-LGBT bills introduced in this session. The message becomes deafening when considered alongside the growing number of such bills in recent years.

Since 2009, I have testified in the North Dakota Legislature in support of LGBT rights, beginning with the state’s first anti-discrimination bill. While early efforts saw more opposition than support, each session brought increasing testimonies in favor of LGBT protections, reflecting shifting public attitudes. However, despite rising community support, legislative opposition has only hardened. Policymakers have not only defeated anti-discrimination measures but have escalated attacks on LGBT rights—including anti-trans bills in 2021, an influx of restrictive legislation in 2023, and now, in 2025, religious rhetoric fueling even broader efforts to marginalize not just LGBT citizens, but other vulnerable communities as well.

Public support for LGBT rights is growing—yet lawmakers continue to defy the will of the people. According to a recent Fargo Forum article, 56% of likely voters support the Supreme Court’s decision, while only 36% favor efforts by the House to overturn the rule. Based on their responses, 89% of Democrats, 57% of Independents and 43% of Republicans said they agreed with the Supreme Court ruling. Yet, despite this, the North Dakota House voted 56% (52 votes) in favor of overturning it, while only 43% (40 votes) supported the Court’s decision.

The numbers speak for themselves. Public opinion is moving forward, yet this legislature is moving backward. This stark contrast between rising public support and increasingly hostile legislative actions sends a clear message: North Dakota's leadership refuses to represent the voices of its people, a fact that should not be overlooked.

So, yes, the message is loud and clear: this legislature does not value the rights and dignity of LGBT citizens. Look around you. Do you not hear the voices of those actively choosing to leave the state because of this rhetoric? Do you ever wonder why LGBT emotional health in this state is sinking? No, you do not. You are ignoring the actual consequences these policies have on mental health and community well-being. The damage is real, and you are choosing to ignore it.

Regarding HCR 3013, Representative Tveit championed the dangerous fiction that "the country would not be able to perpetuate itself without men and women having children," which is resoundingly monstrous. In these ten years of marriage equality, have gay marriages decimated the birth rate in our country? For those of you who are heterosexually married, has the union of a same-gender couple destroyed the sanctity of your marriage? What is your justification for invalidating the sacred vows of a gay couple when their union has had no impact on your own?

I remind you that we have been part and parcel of this land for centuries. We are not something new, something foreign, something infiltrating the state, something to denigrate. We are your fellow citizens seeking our equal rights for freedom, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Do not disregard our long history in this state we call home.

This letter has taken me many long moments to write. With each sentence I wrote, I heard the admonition, "Quit complaining; you don't have it that bad." After each paragraph, the voice of "If you don't like it here" reverberated loudly.

But, with each pause, I remembered there indeed remains much support and inclusion from our allies here in North Dakota. I hear the supportive votes voicing their advocacy. I recognize that people are fighting for the LGBT community at large. I acknowledge many faith communities affirm the dignity and worth of LGBT individuals. Religious freedom means acknowledging that faith does not belong to one interpretation alone. Simply put, we are not going away.

I implore you to represent North Dakota's citizens with fairness, honor your oath to the Constitution, and respect the dignity and diversity of your fellow humans—vote to defeat this concurrent resolution and any legislation that seeks to strip rights from marginalized communities. Let us work together to build a more inclusive and accepting future for all North Dakotans.

Kevin R. Tengesdal  
Bismarck, North Dakota  
District 35

---

Following is the abbreviated version I intend to present to the Senate Judiciary Committee in person.

Chairperson, members of the committee, respecting your time, I am presenting a shorter version of the letter I have submitted online.

My name is Kevin Tengesdal, and I am from Bismarck. I am a tax-paying citizen of North Dakota, a veteran who swore an oath to uphold the Constitution, and a Christian who is gay. I stand before you today in strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013.

This resolution may not affect my legal status as I am unmarried. But emotionally? It has wrecked me. Hard. I cannot even imagine the pain of those this bill directly targets—being told that the marriage they built, the life they share, the commitment they have made is not valid in the eyes of this legislature.

It may be a resolution without legal enforcement, but that does not make it harmless. It carries the poisonous sting of bigotry and hatred. It sends a clear message to people like me that we are not wanted. If you cannot hear that message, I so do wish I had your ears of privilege.

Since 2009, I have testified before this body in support of LGBT rights. I remember the first time an anti-discrimination bill was introduced—it faced more opposition than support. However, the number of testimonies in favor of equality has grown with each session since then. Public opinion is shifting.

Yet, this legislature is moving in the opposite direction. Instead of addressing real issues that impact North Dakotans, policymakers have escalated attacks on LGBT rights—first defeating anti-discrimination protections, then targeting transgender citizens in 2021, then introducing an influx of restrictive legislation in 2023, and now in 2025, fueling discrimination with more religious rhetoric.

Public support for LGBT rights is growing, yet lawmakers continue to defy the will of the people. This disregard is not leadership. It is a deliberate effort to marginalize an already vulnerable population. So, yes, the message is loud and clear: This legislature does not value the rights and dignity of LGBT citizens. And there are consequences. People are leaving. Mental health in our community is plummeting. The damage is real, and you are choosing to ignore it.

I ask you as you consider this resolution:

- In these ten years of marriage equality, have gay marriages decimated our birth rate?
- Has the union of a same-gender couple destroyed the sanctity of your own marriage?
- What is your justification for invalidating the sacred vows of a gay couple, when their union has no impact on yours?

We are not new. We are not outsiders. We are your fellow citizens, your neighbors, your coworkers, your veterans, your friends. And we are not going away.

This letter took me many long moments to write, with the voices of "Quit complaining, you don't have it that bad" and "If you don't like it here, leave" whispering in my ear. But then, I remembered: There is support here. Allies in this room. Faith communities that recognize religious freedom means acknowledging that faith does not belong to one interpretation alone. And people who continue fighting for a more inclusive and just North Dakota.

I implore you: Honor your oath to the Constitution. Represent all North Dakotans. Reject this resolution and every attempt to strip rights from marginalized communities. Let's work toward a future where we all belong.

Thank you.

In response to bill HCR 3013.

I really can't believe people are in favor of such a bill. I myself am opposed to it. Why does anyone else care who someone else loves? No matter race, gender, or origin, you should be able to marry whoever you wish to marry. Some people never get to experience falling in love, and for those who do, they should be able to marry whomever it is they love. We cannot control our emotions let alone who we fall in love with.

Being bi-sexual myself, I would like to know that I can marry whoever I fall in love with. Whether it be a man or a woman, I should be able to marry and spend my life with whoever I choose. I don't feel it's fair that people I don't even know think they get to decide I can't. I've attended many weddings over the years, some were a man to a woman, and others same sex. The one thing they all had in common was that they were beautiful, and two people who loved each other were able to unit in marriage. I don't think anyone should have the right to take that away. This would be another step back for our country. Please don't don't this.

**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**March 12, 2025**  
**HCR 3013 - Testimony in Opposition**

Chair and members of the committee, my name is Whitney Oxendahl, and I am writing in opposition to HCR 3013.

I know this is a resolution and doesn't carry the weight of law. But it is a statement. It's a statement to LGBTQ+ North Dakotans that they aren't welcome here. It's difficult not to be frustrated about this resolution moving forward to the Senate and hurting people in my neighborhood, my community, and my family.

They are North Dakotans. They are welcome here. They are loved. Please give HCR 3013 a Do Not Pass recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.



HB 3013  
Addendum\*

Dear chair Klemin and the members of the judiciary committee I urge a do not pass on HRC 3013.

Marriage is something that two consenting adults no matter their gender should be able to share in, its also a right that many people have fought for to simply share that bond. Theres no reason other than malice to start rolling back these rights and I urge that this proposal stops here and goes no further.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Im saddened to see the bill has made it past the house, I also know that there was some level of regret amongst members of the house in regards to their vote in support of the bill; however, there is still time for this bill to be stopped. I understand how the view of marriage can be stringent on ones beliefs but when we start using those beliefs and seats of power to impose our own will on those that may or may not be harmed it opens a door for a group, that may not share those some beliefs, on yourselves. Its still a show of gross government overreach to tell a group of people they can or cant get married and Im saddened to see that this State House and Senate fail to see just, I again thank you for your time and hope you make the right decision and oppose this bill.

Sean Thorstad

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HCR3013. My name is Andrea Placher and I am a citizen of District 2 in Williston. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

I urge you to vote DO NOT PASS on HCR3013.

Sincerely,

Andrea Placher  
District 2 Williston

Chairman and Committee members:

I am writing in opposition to HCR 3013.

This resolution is so mean spirited. It does not change any law but is intended to cause harm and division by setting people against LGBTQ persons. It is none of your nor my business who your neighbor's son or daughter choose to marry and it is none of your neighbor's business who you or your son or daughter choose to marry.

A loving relationship between two men or two women does not hurt you or me or anyone else. Why does anyone want to purposefully make life harder for others for absolutely no benefit to anyone else? This CR has no benefit and is only intended to be hurtful and harmful.

I encourage you to give a "do not pass" recommendation for HCR 3013

Respectfully submitted,

Sister Lillian Long

TO: ND Judiciary Committee

FROM: Kathy Marquette

DATE: March 8, 2025

SUBJECT: HCR 3013

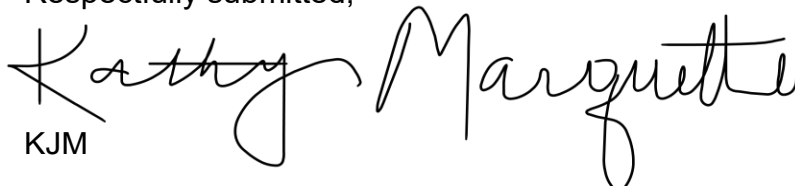
Members of the North Dakota Judiciary Committee, the purpose of this memorandum is to provide written testimony *in opposition to HCR 3013* urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

Having been in education for 31 years in the state of North Dakota—2 years at the secondary level and 29 at the post-secondary level, I have had the opportunity to work with a diverse cross-section of students over my career. Each student--male or female--gay or straight, is blessed with many talents and abilities. If a student knows that I respect him or her as a person and want them to succeed, and if that student is willing to work and learn, there is no limit to what a student can achieve!

Love is a feeling that all people should and can experience. I have no authority to tell someone whom they should love, nor should anyone else. Somehow, we've lost sight of this; many people in our state as well as other states feel they have the right to determine this. Love knows no boundaries and doesn't distinguish between color, sex, education level or income level. My oldest brother and my godson are both gay. They are extremely talented men who have decided to love someone of the same sex. Do I understand their love for one another completely? No, I do not. I also do not understand certain people's love for each other who are heterosexual. The point is, I have no right to determine this and no one else should have that right either. We have so many more important issues that need our immediate attention such as education, medical programs, services and infrastructure, taxes, the economy, childcare, etc. Please don't take away the right of an individual to decide who to love. Would you want that for yourself, your children, or your grandchildren?

Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony in opposition of HCR 3013. I genuinely hope you take it into consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

  
KJM

I am writing as a born and raised resident of North Dakota, and not on behalf of any entity other than myself.  
I oppose this bill and do NOT wish to have it pass. It is unnecessary and harmful to our state, and our future economy.  
Please give this a DO NOT PASS vote.

Below are a few of the reasons I believe this will hurt our local economy:

Many single people will move out of state to be partnered, or for dating with the option.

Many male/female couples already refuse to get married in protest of not allowing legal marriage to all persons.

A federal act legalizing marriages in other states but not ours will cause more issues.

Signed, Jessica Marie Lobsinger

## Regarding HCR 3013

Dear Chair Larson and members of the Judiciary committee,

My name is Joseph Melancon. While not a citizen of North Dakota, but rather of Minnesota, I've lived, worked, and received education in Grand Forks for the past two years and six months and desire continue to do so. For myself and other LGBTQ individuals within the North Dakota University System who have chosen this state as home in the process of seeking postsecondary education, I urge that this bill, HCR 3013, be given a DO NOT pass.

Many of this bill's supporters argue that federal recognition of same-sex marriage, enacted as a result of Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015, runs counter to the teachings of particular religions or to "natural law". Addressing the first argument, I'd like to assert that while individuals are granted the right to freely follow any religion of their choosing by the first amendment to the United States constitution, individuals are conversely free to abstain from engaging with religion. Thus, to legislate based upon interpretations of morals posited by a given religious text directly violates our country's constitution.

Regarding the second argument provided, not only does claiming that homosexuality runs counter to "natural law" undermine the fact that homosexuality has been observed in hundreds of species across the globe, it also carries an implication that marriage must only serve as a mechanism to subsidize procreation. If we dictate that marriage is strictly for the act of procreation and not for the union of individuals in a romantic relationship, what precedent does this set for heterosexual relationships that do not bear offspring? If either party within a monogamous relationship is infertile, do they have the right to marry? And what of men who have had a vasectomy, or women who are post-menopause? To this, I argue that restricting one form of marriage between consenting adults based upon a lack of ability to procreate sets precedent to prohibit any marriages that do not bear children, a precedent that affects all citizens of the United States, queer or otherwise.

In closing, I'd like to ask that this bill be given a DO NOT pass, not only due to many arguments being born from interpretation of religious text, a violation of first-amendment rights, but also due to the precedent it would set for any other marriages that do not bear children.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Melancon". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joseph Melancon  
2025-03-09

joseph@jmelancon.com, 952/992-0214

Date: March 3, 2025  
RE: HCR 3103

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013. This resolution is not only blatantly discriminatory and undermines fundamental principles of equality and fairness, but it is also a meaningless gesture that wastes energy, time, and resources.

HCR 3013 is a non-binding resolution. It has no legal effect and will not overturn a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The U.S. Supreme Court is not bound by the opinion of the North Dakota legislature. This resolution serves only to express an opinion, not to enact any real change. This makes this resolution a waste of time and taxpayer resources. To suggest that the U.S. Supreme Court would overturn a settled matter of constitutional law based on a state resolution is ridiculous.

While HCR 3013 may be completely inconsequential, its message is deeply damaging. It sends a clear message to same-sex couples living in North Dakota: that their elected officials do not recognize their families as equal and that their fundamental rights are subject to political or religious whims.

This resolution creates an atmosphere of fear and anxiety for same-sex couples and their children, undermining their sense of belonging and security in their own state. It tells same sex couples, that the North Dakota legislature wishes to remove their legal marriage rights. This is a cruel and needless attack on North Dakota families.

This resolution is a direct insult to the loving and committed same-sex couples who have built their lives and families in North Dakota. It tells them they are second class citizens.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees equal protection under the law. This resolution flies in the face of that constitutional principle. To heartlessly deny same-sex couples the fundamental right to marry is just that: heartless. This is not just a legal matter; it is a matter of basic human dignity.

The right to marry is a fundamental human right. To deny this right to same-sex couples is a blatant form of discrimination that infringes upon their dignity, autonomy, and the very fabric of their families.

Marriage is a cornerstone of family life. Same-sex couples in North Dakota form loving, committed families and deserve the same legal recognition and protection as heterosexual couples. HCR 3013 seeks to undermine those families.

Denying same-sex couples the right to marry has tangible negative economic consequences, including reduced economic security for same-sex families and lost revenue for the state.

Children raised by same-sex couples deserve the same legal protections and stability as children raised by heterosexual couples. HCR 3013 would create legal uncertainty and inflict harm on these children.

While some religious institutions may hold specific beliefs about marriage, it is crucial to uphold the separation of church and state. Religious beliefs should not be used to justify discriminatory laws that infringe upon the fundamental rights of others.

Societal norms around marriage have evolved, and will continue to evolve. Legislators should reflect the current reality of society, not cling to outdated prejudices.

This resolution is a discriminatory and harmful attempt to undermine a settled U.S. Supreme Court ruling. It disregards established legal precedent, violates fundamental human rights, crosses the line of separation of church and state, and undermines the well-being of families and communities in North Dakota. I urge all ND Senators to reject this resolution and uphold the principles of equality, justice, and basic human decency for all North Dakotans.

Andy Bertsch  
District 5 Resident  
Minot, ND 58701



### Testimony in Opposition to HB 3013

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 3013, which urges the United States Supreme Court to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges* and redefine marriage exclusively as a union between one man and one woman. This resolution is an affront to the principles of freedom, equality, and the separation of church and state, and it threatens the happiness and stability of countless loving families.

The Declaration of Independence declares that all individuals are endowed with the unalienable right to pursue happiness. For many Americans, this pursuit is intimately tied to the freedom to marry the person they love. This resolution seeks to strip that right from same-sex couples, forcing them into a second-class status and undermining their pursuit of happiness.

Furthermore, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. By codifying one narrow religious view of marriage into law, this resolution blatantly disregards the diverse beliefs held by people across North Dakota and the United States. It imposes religious doctrine through legislative action, violating the separation of church and state.

The United States Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* upheld the fundamental right to marry, recognizing the inherent dignity of same-sex couples. To overturn this decision would not only unravel the rights and protections of LGBTQ families but would also set a dangerous precedent allowing the erosion of other fundamental rights.

Moreover, this resolution fails to acknowledge the real and measurable harm it would inflict upon families in our state. It would destabilize households, delegitimize parental rights, and subject countless children of same-sex couples to legal uncertainty. To advance such a measure is to willfully inflict harm upon North Dakota families who deserve love, stability, and legal security.

I implore the members of this legislative body to reject HB 3013. Upholding the principles of liberty, equality, and religious freedom requires us to protect — not undermine — the rights of all families. Let us stand firmly on the side of love, inclusion, and the pursuit of happiness for every North Dakotan.

Respectfully,

Megan Conklin

Beach, North Dakota

701-690-0543

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear North Dakota Senate Members,

I write today in opposition to the bill HCR 3013 urging the US Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman. I urge all legislative members to remember how far we have come in the past decade in securing rights for our fellow LGBTQ+ members. Members of the LGBTQ+ community are present in our own families and contribute successfully to our society at large. They deserve the same rights as heterosexual couples.

I have the honor and privilege to serve members of the LGBTQ+ in my own practice as a mental health therapist. I have seen first hand how members of this community have fought for their rights and the rights of their loved ones. Some have spent years being discriminated against solely for the fact that they love someone of the same gender. We do not need to go backwards. I urge you to protect our LGBTQ+ community members' rights by voting in opposition on bill HCR 3013.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Teresa Steele, LMSW

Licensed Masters Social Worker

Great Edge Therapy, LLC

# Letter in Opposition to HCR 3013

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I write to you today to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013, the proposed concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman. This resolution is not only a step backward in the fight for equality and human rights but also a measure that would have profound and damaging consequences for many North Dakotans.

Firstly, passing HCR 3013 would directly undermine the validity of existing marriages between same-sex couples. These marriages, legally recognized and protected, provide not only a bond of love and companionship but also essential legal rights and protections. By redefining marriage in a way that excludes same-sex couples, the State would effectively strip these individuals of their marital status, leading to a cascade of legal complications and emotional distress. Rights to joint property, parental recognition, and inheritance would be compromised, leaving couples in a precarious and vulnerable position.

Furthermore, this resolution would profoundly affect the end-of-life decisions and rights of same-sex couples. Currently, legal marriage ensures that spouses can make critical medical decisions for each other, have hospital visitation rights, and provide comfort and support during the most challenging times. Without recognized marital status, same-sex partners may be denied access to their loved ones in hospitals, left out of critical health care decisions, and even lose the ability to plan funerals and memorials according to their wishes. The emotional toll and practical difficulties arising from these scenarios are both cruel and unjust.

In the case of death, the implications are even more severe. Surviving spouses in same-sex marriages could lose their entitlement to spousal benefits, social security, and pension benefits, which are vital for their financial stability. They could also face legal hurdles in inheriting property and assets that they shared with their deceased spouse, leading to potential loss of their homes and financial security. The grief of losing a loved one should not be compounded by the uncertainty and insecurity brought about by retroactively invalidating their marriage.

HCR 3013 does not just affect the legalities; it sends a damaging message to the LGBTQ+ community that their love and commitments are somehow lesser, unworthy of the same recognition and respect as heterosexual marriages. This is a dangerous precedent that

fosters discrimination and inequality, undermining the progress our society has made toward inclusivity and acceptance.

I urge you, as representatives of all North Dakotans, to consider the far-reaching and devastating consequences of HCR 3013. Rejecting this resolution is not only a stand for equality and justice but also a protection of the rights and dignities of all married couples, regardless of their gender.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this critical matter. Let us continue to move forward, together, in the spirit of fairness, love, and mutual respect.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hegel

921 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW

Beach, ND 58621

linkensmom@gmail.com

NORTH DAKOTA HCR 3013

I am a ND citizen. I vote. I am 67 years old and straight. I DO NOT support HCR3013.

All people – ALL PEOPLE – in our state and elsewhere – are entitled to be happy with who they are, who they love, and who they choose to marry.

From  
Karen R. Sanderson  
District 40  
Minot, ND

Hello,

As a North Dakota citizen, I urge you to not support this resolution. In practice, it does absolutely nothing except show LGBTQ+ North Dakota citizens that they are not welcome in this state.

I know there were some in the House who voted to pass this because they thought it would be a step to completely separate religious marriage and state civil unions, but let's be honest. There is nothing about this resolution that doesn't come from a place of fear and hatred for anyone who is not heterosexual.

I do not support this resolution, and I urge you not to support HCR 3013.

Thank you.  
Kacey D.

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a Do Not Pass on HCR 3013. This cruel, wasteful bill is nothing but faux-virtue posturing for media attention and to seek public approval from only the most extreme conservative voters. LGBTQIA+ North Dakotans deserve our support and protection from the worst among us, not the constant barrage of threats to their lives and livelihoods they have experienced over the past decades. The eventual goal of this bill will destroy families, and for what?

Because regardless of the moral and ethical issues here, this bill is an enormous waste of taxpayer money and legislative time. Continuing to introduce, debate, vote, and force through blatantly unconstitutional bills like this one (and many others this session) does nothing of value but waste our limited resources. North Dakotans are depending on you to address real, critical concerns like employment, inflation, child care, education, health care access, and support for our farmers and ranchers. North Dakotans voted for smaller government reach and more personal freedoms, and whether you like it or not, this is the opposite of both. Stop wasting our time and money on useless, cruel, nonsense bills and do the job you were elected and are being paid to do.

I'm going to say that part again.

Stop wasting taxpayer time and money on cruel, pointless bills and do the job you were elected--and are being paid--to do.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Jessica Hawkes

I write in opposition to the passage of this bill.

If this bill had been in effect earlier in my teaching career two of my students would have been in grave danger. As a teacher I do not bring up LGBTQIA+ things out of the blue. but it is critical that I remain allowed to address them when they come up. One affirming adult reduces suicide risk so much in queer youth. Anything that takes them away from that puts them in literal danger. In addition, simply passing anti-LGBTQIA+ laws increase the risk of suicide attempt by 72%. Passing this law will quite literally result in dead children. If a LGBTQIA+ kid was capable of not being queer, they would already be. This is extra true in a state with a social climate like North Dakota.

I have had a gay student whose suicide attempts I prevented more than once. If I had not responded with affirmation he did not get at home when he came to me during lunch breaks and after school with fear about being kicked out of his home, I know he won't have come to me for help in his time of crisis.

Another student came to me about the abuse she suffered at her dad's hand, because she was trans. There was a part of her who thought her dad choking her was justified for being "an abomination". If we didn't already have a relationship where she knew I didn't think of her like this, I don't now if she would have asked anyone for help. She is living safely with her other parent because of the trust we built by my respecting her pronouns and names.

There is a perception out there that schools are encouraging students to be queer. In my experience, this could not be further from the truth. Even my luckiest students had only 2/7 of their teachers accept them. Even that student had a teacher who went out of the way to misgender them (never using the word "lady" for them until they'd come out as non-binary, doing it over 10 times a class period after).

Of the four trans students I've had, one was physically abused for it, one went back into the closet because people were cruel to them, and one never told anyone but me. While my gay students have better odds the majority still hide who they are with at least chunk of the people in their lives. North Dakota is not a place where kids are coming out as queer or trans unless their identities are so pressing that abuse and bullying is more comfortable than abandoning parts of themselves. For every affirming message a queer student gets from someone like me, they hear literally hundreds of negative ones. Taking away the few positive messages they do receive is beyond cruel.

Teachers are not out to keep secrets from parents. In every case where it was safe for the student (about 90% of cases) my support has lead to students telling at least one caregiver about their identities. In cases where that secret stayed kept either the child's safety or housing was at risk.



Not only that, this law would have unintended consequences concerning bullying. Just this week a straight student was upset that another straight student was calling him "gay," in a repetitive bullying manner. I stepped in and dealt with it the way I deal with all bullying. If this law passed, I couldn't have dealt with it without getting both parent's permission. I'm quite sure that one and possibly both would have withheld it. I would then have been forced to watch a student be bullied by his classmate without doing anything to stop it.

The name and pronoun portion have unintended consequences as well. It would be cumbersome to have to obtain consent every time one of my middle school students wants to be called a name different from their birth name (for example: John for Jonathan or Mandy for Amanda). This would require teachers to reach out in hundreds of cases per year at the middle school level. Experimenting with nicknames is developmentally appropriate at the middle school level and is very harmless. A Catherine might try on Cat for a month before going back to Cathy and no one has been harmed in the process. It would particularly take a lot of manpower when considering children of immigrants who have Americanized their names and whose parents don't speak English and would need translation services (sometimes for languages no one at the school speaks). Almost all the time students who ask me to call them something different are not trans. In several cases kids have asked to go by middle names to distance themselves from abusive parents they were named after (and are no longer in their lives). The idea of making that painful and unnecessary call to the parent when I could just show the child compassion turns my stomach.

I write in opposition to this bill.

During the AIDS crisis LGBTQIA+ were denied access to their dying partners. I do not want to go back to a time when people can't be with a loved one they've had a life time commitment to in hospitals. Same sex couples deserve every right that straight couples receive.

If you don't agree with gay marriage, I would simply advice you not to enter into one. But you should not put limits on other marriages between consenting adults. Disagreements over culture do not belong in laws. You should live your life the way you want to, and let others do the same. Your marriage and family are in no way impacted by the way that other's form theirs.

I know that some people fear the erosion of marriage. Queer marriages full of love and support do not take anything from a straight marriage. With half of straight marriages ending in divorce, and 20% involving cheating sanctity in marriage is already more a theory than a fact. The divorce rate in queer marriages is far lower than that for straight couples.

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013, a resolution that seeks to undermine the fundamental rights of same-sex couples in North Dakota.

I am a lifelong resident of the Bismarck/Mandan area, and it wasn't until same-sex marriage was legalized in 2015 that I became aware of the importance of marriage in general. You see, up until that point I thought it just a piece of paper. I did not see how that could affect how much two people loved each other.

It was then that a complete stranger told me that while he understood where I was coming from, marriage is a whole lot more than just a piece of paper. Without that piece of paper, if my partner were to become seriously ill, I would not be able to be in the room. If my partner were unable to make decisions for themselves, I would not be able to help in that situation.

Without that piece of paper, the "family" that has not accepted who my partner is or who they love will get to make these decisions, and I will have absolutely no say in carrying out the wishes of my partner, no matter what they are, because I would have no legal say in the matter. Yes, there are ways around this, power of attorney and whatnot, but this is 2025! People should be allowed to love who they want and marry who they want. I do not understand how we can have something for 10 years, something that has not harmed one single soul, and then just try to take it away!

I understand that everyone has different beliefs and stands differently on certain issues, but I think we can agree that EVERYONE deserves love!! If you do not believe in same-sex marriage, then do not marry someone of the same sex, but I beg you to PLEASE not stand in the way of my being with the person I love.

I just do not understand how North Dakota can be a place that legalized same-sex marriage, let us have Pride on the Capital lawn, but now suddenly wants to take away our right to marry! Everyone deserves to be happy, and I just don't understand how any two people getting married, whether they are gay, straight, or anything in between affects any other person! How does me marrying a woman affect you in your everyday life? I don't believe it does, so please PLEASE do not pass HRC 3013

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Brandee Burger

Dear Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013.

Marriage equality has been federal law in the United States for exactly ten years. I celebrated its passing in 2015 with the Supreme Court’s decision in Obergefell v. Hodges.

I strongly condemn this resolution, which seeks to deny a basic human right. This resolution ultimately does nothing to help the people of North Dakota. Rather, it actively seeks to harm those who have a same sex marriage, or who wish to be married in the future.

The right to marry must continue to be assured to all Americans, gay and straight alike. Please help the Legislature get back to working on things that will improve the lives of North Dakotans and give HRC 3013 a “Do Not Pass” recommendation.

Thank you for your service to our state,  
Mariah Ralston

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HCR 3013**

**I urge a “DO NOT PASS” vote.**

This resolution is wrong for several reasons, particularly in light of contemporary legal, social, and ethical considerations. Attempting to undermine the Supreme Court’s 2015 decision would bring instability to the principle of stare decisis, which emphasizes the importance of adhering to established legal precedents. Defining marriage exclusively between a man and a woman is discrimination and is nothing more than an attempt to roll back civil rights gains and deny equal treatment under the law. Promoting a legal definition of marriage that aligns with particular (not all) religious views infringes on the separation of church and state, undermining the pluralistic foundation of American democracy. Efforts to restrict marriage rights contributes to social division and conflict, which our country has enough of right now. Families will be negatively impacted creating legal and social instability for children and parents alike. Legislators should be upholding the dignity and rights of ALL individuals as a fundamental principal of human rights. The broader implications will only bring further legal challenges and likely erosion of civil rights. Societal attitudes towards marriage and LGBTQ+ rights have shifted significantly over recent years and many Americans and many Christians, support marriage equality.

Advocating for a resolution to redefine marriage only diverts attention and resources from more pressing issues that will make North Dakota a great state in which to reside.

Please see through this nonsense and do not pass this resolution.

Thank you,

Michele Grenier  
Rolette, ND

# Why Same Sex Marriages Should Continue To Be Legal

Larry R. Peterson  
Emeritus Professor  
NDSU History Department

I want to address three reasons why same-sex marriages should continue to be legal in the United States: marriage as a basic human right, the relationship between law and religion, and the history of marriage as a changing institution,

## **1. MARRIAGE AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT**

For those most directly involved, marriage is a long-term legal and public commitment to intertwine their lives, to share responsibilities, to share joy, and to share love--in good times and in bad times, or as traditional vows often put it, in sickness and in health. To link our lives with another's in the commitment of marriage is one of the most precious personal decisions we can make. To the rest of society, recognizing a loving relationship between two adults through the

institution of marriage is a fundamental way in which we recognize our mutual humanity with those individuals.

Those governments that have prohibited some consenting adults from marrying form a list of hatred and intolerance. Southern states refused to allow slaves to have legal marriages prior to the Civil War. Many of these same states prohibited interracial marriages from the 1680s until 1967 (when the Supreme Court struck down those laws). The Nazis outlawed marriages between Jews and "Aryan" Germans in the 1935 Nuremberg laws.

Opponents of marriage between slaves, between interracial couples, and between Jews and Germans were labeling them as less than human. They were declaring that their love was not deserving of the same recognition as the love of the members of the "superior" race. They denied those couples the basic human right of marriage.

The rationales used to justify prohibiting interracial marriages sound remarkably contemporary. According to historian Peggy Pascoe, there were five arguments commonly used by opponents of interracial marriage in America in the late nineteenth century. Three of those arguments are quite relevant to my topic. First, they defined "all interracial relationships (even longstanding, deeply committed

ones) as illicit sex” rather than loving relationships. Second “they insisted that interracial marriage was contrary to God's will.” Third, “they declared, over and over again, that interracial marriage was somehow ‘unnatural.’”<sup>1</sup>

The parallels between the views of those who opposed interracial marriage and those who now oppose gay marriage seems obvious and was noted quite effectively by *Chicago Tribune* columnist Eric Zorn in 1996 when he took a series of statements denouncing interracial marriages from 1823 to 1964 and easily transformed them into contemporary denunciations of gay marriage.<sup>2</sup>

## **1. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAW & RELIGION**

What is “legal” is not necessarily “moral” for all people. We live in a pluralistic society with long constitutional tradition of separating church and state. For example, both Judaism and Islam forbid eating pork, yet we do not outlaw it. The Old Testament penalty for adultery,<sup>3</sup> or cursing one’s parents was death.<sup>4</sup> In the New Testament Jesus equated remarriage after divorce with adultery.<sup>5</sup> As a society,



we neither execute children for cursing their parents nor prohibit divorced folks from remarrying.

Marriage within a religious tradition and as a celebration of a community of faith with friends and family, is not the same as marriage as a legal institution. You cannot be legally married without a marriage license, but you can be legally married by a justice of the peace. Those of us who support the rights of gays and lesbians to marry do not seek to force any religious denomination to perform same-sex marriages. We only want the same legal protections and rights for our friends, our relatives, or ourselves that heterosexual couples enjoy.

## **2. THE HISTORY OF MARRIAGE AS A CHANGING INSTITUTION**

Marriage as a legal institution has changed considerably in Western Europe and the United States. Throughout much of our history, marriage was often "traditionally" defined as a union of two people of the same religion, or the same race, or as a relationship in which the female was simply the property of the male. With the rise of individualism and equality of all individuals, those "traditional"

elements have changed. Now we emphasize that marriage is matter of personal choice of each of the individuals involved, not their parents, their church, or their government. Let me give you some examples of how the "traditional" definition of marriage has changed.

- From the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Roman Catholic Church conducted special ceremonies to bless same-sex unions that were almost identical for those to bless heterosexual unions. At the very least, these were spiritual, if not sexual, unions.<sup>6</sup>
- In 1076 Pope Alexander II issued a decree prohibiting marriages between couples who were more closely related than 6<sup>th</sup> cousins.<sup>7</sup>
- In the 16<sup>th</sup> century servants and day laborers were not allowed to marry in Bavaria and Austria unless they had the permission of local political authorities. This law was not finally abolished in Austria until 1921.<sup>8</sup>

- From the 1690s until the 1870s “wife sale” a type of public self-divorce in which a woman with a rope around her neck was “sold” by husband to another man was common in rural and small-town England.<sup>9</sup>
- Marriage was strictly a civil and not an ecclesiastical ceremony for the Puritans in Massachusetts Bay from 1630 until 1686.<sup>10</sup> They explicitly wanted marriage as a civil ceremony, not a church sacrament as it was in England.
- In the seventeenth century, the Pilgrims outlawed courtship of a daughter or a female servant unless consent was first obtained from parents or master.<sup>11</sup>
- Until 1662 there was no penalty for interracial marriages in any of the British colonies in North America. In 1662 Virginia doubled the fine for fornication between interracial couples. In 1664 Maryland became the first colony to ban interracial marriages. By 1750 all southern colonies, plus

Massachusetts and Pennsylvania had enacted anti-miscegenation laws.<sup>12</sup>

- Under English common law, and in all American colonies and states until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, married women had no legal standing. They could not own property, sign contracts, or legally control any wages they might earn.<sup>13</sup>
- Informal marriage, self-marriage, or common law marriage was very frequent in backwoods areas of the United States until about 1750. They continued to be common in the South "well into the nineteenth century."<sup>14</sup>
- In 1833 the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania claimed that the "vast majority" of children born in the previous 50 years would be considered illegitimate if marriage laws were strictly enforced.<sup>15</sup>

- In 1848 New York became the first state to pass a Married Woman's Property Act, guaranteeing the right of married women to own property.<sup>16</sup>
- Throughout most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the minimum age of consent for sexual intercourse in most American states was 10 years old. In Delaware it was only 7 years old.<sup>17</sup>
- In 1871 in response to what he perceived as a threat from the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of "equal protection under the laws" Congressman Andrew King (D-Missouri) made the first attempt to prohibit interracial marriages with a constitutional amendment.<sup>18</sup>
- Between 1887 and 1948 thirty of the forty-eight states outlawed interracial marriages.<sup>19</sup> These laws were not merely empty threats. For example, between 1883 and 1938 Alabama prosecuted 343 people for violating its anti-miscegenation laws.<sup>20</sup>

- In 1913 Congressman Seaborn Roddenbery (D-Georgia), introduced a proposed constitutional amendment to outlaw interracial marriages because Jack Johnson, the Black heavyweight boxing champion had married a white woman the previous year.<sup>21</sup>
- In 1928 Senator Coleman Livingston Blease (D-South Carolina) introduced the final attempt to outlaw interracial marriages with a constitutional amendment.<sup>22</sup>
- As late as 1930, twelve states allowed boys as young as 14 and girls as young as 12 to marry (with parental consent).<sup>23</sup>
- As late as 1940 married women were not allowed to make a legal contract in twelve states.<sup>24</sup>
- In 1948 California Supreme Court became the first state high court to declare a ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional.<sup>25</sup>

- In 1958 in the first Gallup poll on interracial marriages 94% of non-Hispanic whites disapproved of them.<sup>26</sup>
- In 1959 when Richard and Mildred Loving pleaded guilty to violating Virginia's anti-miscegenation law, they were sentenced to a year in jail, with the sentence suspended on the condition they leave the state and not return for 25 years. At their sentencing, Virginia lower court judge, Leon Bazile declared:

"Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay, and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangements there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix."<sup>27</sup>
- In a 1965 Gallup poll 42% of Northern whites and 72% of Southern whites supported outlawing interracial marriages.<sup>28</sup>

- In January 1967 Mildred and Richard Loving received justice when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state laws banning interracial marriage in *Loving v. Virginia*. In what can only be seen as a bizarre irony, just months earlier U.S. Solicitor General, and future (August 1967) Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall and his Asian wife were unable to purchase their dream house in Virginia because as in interracial couple they could not lawfully live together.<sup>29</sup>
  
- As a result of the *Loving v. Virginia* decision, Virginia and fifteen other states had their anti-miscegenation laws declared unconstitutional.<sup>30</sup> Those states were: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. In the fifteen years prior to the decision, fourteen states had repealed their anti-miscegenation laws. Those fourteen states were: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, **North Dakota**, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.<sup>31</sup>



- Despite the overturning of these anti-miscegenation laws, 36.8% of Americans still favored outlawing interracial marriages in 1972. By 1998 only 10.6% of Americans still wanted such a law.<sup>32</sup>
- On the other hand, whereas there were only 51,000 black-white married couples in 1960, there were 363,000 by 2000. In 1960 only 1.7 percent of married black Americans had a white partner, whereas 4.3 percent did in 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In a 2003 Gallup poll 70% of non-Hispanic whites approved of interracial marriages, as compared to 4% in 1958.<sup>34</sup>
- In 1978 New York became the first state to outlaw rape in marriage. By 1990 only a total of ten states outlawed rape in marriage. In thirty-six states rape in marriage was a crime only in certain circumstances. In four states, rape in marriage was never a crime.<sup>35</sup>

These examples, and there are more, clearly document that "traditional" marriage has not been an unchanging institution with unchanging definitions of who can marry and under what circumstances.

---

<sup>1</sup> Peggy Pascoe, "Why the Ugly Rhetoric Against Gay Marriage Is Familiar to this Historian of Miscegenation," History News Network, 4-19-04: News at Home, <http://hnn.us/articles/4708.html>

<sup>2</sup> Eric Zorn, "Marriage Issue Just as Plain as Black And White," The Chicago Tribune 19 May 1996.

<sup>3</sup> Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22.

<sup>4</sup> Leviticus 20:9.

<sup>5</sup> Mark 10:11-12.

<sup>6</sup> John Boswell, Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe, (New York: Villard Books, 1994), 185, 188-198, 240.

<sup>7</sup> Jack Goody, The Development of the Family and Marriage in Europe, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983), 136-138.

<sup>8</sup> Michael Mitterauer and Reinhard Sieder, The European Family: Patriarchy to Partnership from the Middle Ages to the Present (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982), 123.

<sup>9</sup> John R. Gillis, For Better, For Worse: British Marriages, 1600 to the Present, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 211-217.

<sup>10</sup> Edmund S. Morgan, The Puritan Family: Religion and Domestic Relations in Seventeenth Century New England. rev. ed. (New York: Harper & Row, 1966), 32.

<sup>11</sup> John Demos, A Little Commonwealth: Family Life in Plymouth Colony, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970), 154.

<sup>12</sup> John D'Emilio and Estelle B. Freedman, Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America, (New York: Harper & Row, 1988), 34-36.

<sup>13</sup> Sara M. Evans, Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America, (New York: Free Press, 1989), 22.

<sup>14</sup> Nancy Cott, Public Vows: A History of Marriage and Nation, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000), 30-32.

<sup>15</sup> Cott, 39.

<sup>16</sup> Evans, 94.

<sup>17</sup> Morton Keller, Affairs of State: Public Life in Late Nineteenth Century America. (Cambridge, MA.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1977), 465.

<sup>18</sup> Edward Stein, "Past and Present Proposed Amendments to the United States Constitution Regarding Marriage," *Issues in Legal Scholarship* Symposium: Single-Sex Marriage [2004], Article 1:16.

<sup>19</sup> Stein, 16.

---

<sup>20</sup> Pascoe.

<sup>21</sup> Nancy F. Cott, Public Vows : A History of Marriage and the Nation (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2000), 163; Stein, 17-18.

<sup>22</sup> Stein, 18.

<sup>23</sup> Steven Mintz and Susan Kellogg, Domestic Revolutions: A Social History of American Family Life, (New York: MacMillan, 1988), 126.

<sup>24</sup> Carl N. Degler, At Odds: Women and the Family in America from the Revolution to the Present, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980), 333.

<sup>25</sup> Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, "Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples - A History" <http://www.lambdalegal.org/cgi-bin/iowa/documents/record?record=1067> 4/20/2004 12:07 PM.

<sup>26</sup> Jack Ludwig, "Acceptance of Interracial Marriage at Record High," Gallup Poll, June 1, 2004, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/content/default.aspx?ci=11836>.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. Supreme Court, *Loving V. Virginia*, 388 U.S. 1 (1967) [http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/prtnter\\_friendly.pl?page=us/388/1.html](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/prtnter_friendly.pl?page=us/388/1.html) ; Michael Lind, "Far from Heaven," *The Nation* 16 July 2003.

<sup>28</sup> Steve Sailer, "Is Love Colorblind? Public Opinion about Interracial Marriage," *National Review* 14 July 1997.

<sup>29</sup> Sailer.

<sup>30</sup> U.S. Supreme Court, *Loving V. Virginia*.

<sup>31</sup> *Loving V. Virginia*, Footnote 5.

<sup>32</sup> RACMAR, General Social Survey, National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago, <http://webapp.icpsr.umich.edu/GSS/>.

<sup>33</sup> Lind.

<sup>34</sup> Ludwig.

<sup>35</sup> Jane Sherron De Hart and Linda K. Kerber, "Gender and The New Women's History," in Linda K. Kerber and Jane Sherron De Hart, eds. Women's America: Refocusing the Past, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), 13.

Greetings Representatives.

I write to you today in opposition to HCR 3013.

My response is simple.

Gay people exist.

Gay people have always existed.

Gay people will always exist.

Representatives Tveit, K. Anderson, Morton, S. Olson, Rohr, Henderson, Hoverson  
And Senators Clemens, Enget, Lemm, Magrum, Weston

It does not matter what you put down on pieces of paper.

It does not matter what laws you enact.

These people will continue to exist.

We already have a problem retaining people, instead of losing them to our neighboring states.

And yet, you continue to scrape the bottom of the barrel to give the more reasons to leave.

Because it is clear as day to anyone, that there is no intent in this bill, nor in any other bill, to retain these rights in North Dakota.

How many rights do you need to strip away before you finally feel accomplished?

How low into the mud must you roll before you feel washed clean?

How much more hate do you need to push forward before you feel happy and content?

To me it is obvious,

You seek to strip people just like you of their rights because you despise them.

You shroud your disgust in legalese to convince yourself that you are doing it for some greater good.

You make false claims that appeal to history, but are entirely fabricated.

The founders believed in Freedom, what your bill seeks to do is limit existing freedoms.

They state plainly that All men are created equal, but you don't believe that do you?

Because you seek to to remove guarantees of equality. Because you see some of your constituents as "Lesser".

Because you want your opinions as laws, so that you may kick down at people different than you.

you claim that Marriage as an institution has been recognized as Hetersexual - by default- for more than two-thousand years.

If you would look at this own country's people, or many other nations across the world, you will see that this is false.

You refer to "the laws of nature and God",

Why don't you subpoena God and Nature, bring them before the courts and ask them for their testimony on what their interpretation of this bill is?

Sexuality in Nature is much more complex than your black and white definition here, and the God you speak of would probably encourage you to love thy neighbor, and to accept them as they are, as we are all made in the image of him.

My guess though is that neither God nor Nature would comply with your subpoena, and not show up on any date requested.

I urge you to end this bill.

It is harmful to our State, it is harmful to our nation.

Inequality is never justified.

We've been down these roads many times before, and every time we venture there we only find pain, violence, death, and atrocity.

This is not an original idea, you all are just copying off the homework of villains from the past.

You weaken the rule of law when you pass law that the majority of people do not agree with, and push us further towards lawlessness.

This bill does not benefit anyone, except those so fragile minded that they cannot handle the idea of true freedom and equality.

I urge all members of the Legislature to not pass this bill.

My name is Kellee Hann and I am writing today to strongly oppose House Concurrent Resolution 3013, which seeks to define marriage in North Dakota as solely between a man and a woman. This resolution is not only discriminatory and regressive—it is unconstitutional, harmful to citizens, and contrary to the fundamental American values of freedom and equality.

First and foremost, the United States Constitution guarantees a separation of church and state. The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prohibits the government from enacting laws rooted in specific religious doctrines. HCR 3013 is a clear example of a law influenced by religious ideology rather than secular governance. Marriage, while it may hold religious significance for some, is a legal institution regulated by the state. The state has no authority to impose religious definitions on civil rights or to legislate morality through a specific theological lens.

This resolution directly contradicts the U.S. Supreme Court's 2015 ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which affirmed that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court made it clear that denying marriage to same-sex couples is a denial of dignity, liberty, and equal protection under the law.

Further, laws like HCR 3013 do not simply codify a definition—they send a dangerous message that some citizens are less deserving of equal rights and recognition than others. This fosters a culture of discrimination, stigma, and harm, particularly to LGBTQ+ youth who already face disproportionate rates of depression, homelessness, and suicide. Government policy should be used to protect people—not marginalize them.

Let me be clear: love is not a threat to society. Committed relationships, regardless of gender, contribute to stronger families and communities. When two people choose to build a life together—raising children, supporting each other, contributing to their neighborhoods—our laws should support them, not restrict them.

To legislate who can love and who can marry is to deny the basic human dignity and freedom that all Americans deserve. As citizens, we do not all share the same faith, but

we all live under the same Constitution. Our laws should reflect liberty and justice for all—not the personal beliefs of some.

I urge this committee to reject HCR 3013 and uphold the constitutional promise of equal rights, fairness, and freedom for every North Dakotan, regardless of who they love.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Chairperson and members of the committee,

There are several bills and resolutions which have been proposed this session that I feel passionately about. However, HCR 3013 is the proposal I feel most passionately about and am beseeching you not to support. As the parent of a member of North Dakota's queer community and the friend (and hopefully ally) to many in the LGBTQ+ community my heart broke when HCR 3013 narrowly passed the ND House of Representatives and I hope that I and other North Dakotans don't have to experience that heartache again.

However, rather than appeal to your emotions I want to take this opportunity not to instead try to lay out some logical reasons not to support this resolution.

- As elected officials, you took an oath to uphold not just the ND constitution, but the United State's Constitution. The 2015 Supreme Court ruling said that the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution allows for any consenting adults to marry one another. If you send a message that you do not wish to uphold this Amendment it could put our state on a dangerous path.
- Financially, HCR 3013 does not benefit ND in any way. As a matter of fact, it could actually harm ND by 1.) Keeping people from wanting to live in the state and 2.) Reducing the stream of income from marriage ceremonies and celebrations.
- Further, HCR 3013 is essentially pointless. It makes a statement, but just barely. It is unlikely that a handful of states passing similar resolutions will cause a Supreme Court ruling to be overturned. Meanwhile, every hour spent discussing this is time you are paid when you could be working on more important issues that benefit North Dakotans.
- Several Representatives who responded to my messages said that the resolution didn't prevent people from being in relationships with those they love and they reiterated that there was "no hate" in their hearts. Sadly, their hearts didn't seem to feel compassion for the wife who can't be with her partner in the ICU or hospice nor did their hearts consider what it would feel like for a husband to not be able to financially support his partner through his workplace benefits. It may not be hatred to keep same-sex couples from having the same tax benefits as you and I, but it does seem to be cruelty. These are all possible scenarios if Obergefell v. Hodges is overturned which is the primary point of this resolution.
- Finally, this resolution is an overreaction. Marriage is not strengthened nor weakened by the relationships of others. If people feel their marriage is made less by the marriage of others then this seems like an opportunity for them to reflect on their relationship and consider counseling not try to encourage laws to be changed and supreme court decisions overruled.

Please do not support Resolution 3013. I relocated my family back to North Dakota in 2012 aftering being away for more than 10 years and the support my elected officials have shown this resolution has embarrassed me and hurt me. Its passing in the House moved me to look for possible relocation outside the state and my child is now applying to colleges outside of North Dakota. Seeing the ND Senate stop this resolution would give us all hope and be a positive step toward keeping people in North Dakota.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janet B. Anderson  
Burlington, ND

Birgit Pruess, Ph.D.  
3696 Harrison St. S  
Fargo, ND

March 9, 2025

RE: HCR3013

Dear members of the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

I am a resident of Fargo, ND. Please, accept the below as my testimony IN OPPOSITION of HCR3013, “A concurrent resolution “urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.”

I am personally not a member of the LGBTQIA community, but unique in many other ways and have some impression of what I means to be different. However, what I see my LBGTQ friends, students, and colleagues go through is beyond my wildest imagination. I get it, some people think freedom of religion is more important than freedom from religion, disregarding the fact that not everybody adheres to the majority religion. Or any religion, as a matter of fact. I do not think that anybody should force their religion onto others, especially in the case of LGBTQ members who do not hurt anybody and do not impact the life of anybody other than themselves. We are living in a world today where hate is the predominant feeling that most people appear to enjoy and thrive on. What is so ‘bad’ if someone wants to love a person? And what difference does it make to you, the reader of this testimony? You can still marry the heterosexual love of your life without restriction if your neighbor makes a different choice.

I think very strongly that the decision by the United States Supreme Court in Obergefell v. Hodges, 135 S.Ct. 2584 (2015) was the only correct solution to a problem that should not be a problem. I also do not see the disagreement with the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment. Furthermore, there were 39 testimonies in response to this resolution for the House. Of these 39, 9 were in favor, and 30 in opposition. That is a strong popular vote against the resolution. And yet, the House chose to disregard these constituents and decided IN FAVOR of the resolution. Intriguingly, some of the yay voters expressed their regret for their vote afterwards and I give them credit for this. I encourage the Senate to give full consideration to the will of the people of North Dakota, as well considering the rights and freedoms of a population that is already having a difficult life.

I highly recommend a DO NOT PASS vote on this resolution that will hurt many of my friends if passed.

As in all my testimonies, I much appreciate the hard work and dedication that each member of my state legislative assembly puts into our state. Thank you.

Sincerely and respectfully Birgit Pruess,  
Ph.D.

<html><head></head><body style="overflow-wrap: break-word; -webkit-nspace-mode: space; line-break: after-white-space;"><div>The proposed resolution in North Dakota that opposes same-sex marriage is an unfortunate step backward in the state's progress toward equality and justice. This resolution fails to reflect the values of fairness, inclusion, and respect for the rights of all individuals. There are several key reasons why this resolution should be opposed:<br></div><div><br></div><div>1. Violation of Equal Rights<br></div><div>The resolution directly undermines the fundamental principle of equality, which is enshrined in both the U.S. Constitution and North Dakotas own commitment to justice and fairness. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry discriminates against them based on their sexual orientation. It sends a harmful message that some peoples love and relationships are less valuable or legitimate than others. Every citizen, regardless of who they love, deserves the same legal recognition and protections under the law.</div><div><br></div><div>2. Legal Precedent and Supreme Court Ruling</div><div>The U.S. Supreme Courts landmark decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) affirmed that same-sex couples have the constitutional right to marry. This ruling ensured that marriage equality is the law of the land, protecting the rights of millions of same-sex couples across the country. Any resolution that seeks to oppose same-sex marriage is in direct conflict with the Supreme Courts decision, which upheld the constitutional right of all individuals to marry whomever they choose.</div><div><br></div><div>3. Impact on LGBTQ+ Rights and Well-being</div><div>Opposing same-sex marriage perpetuates harmful discrimination and stigma against LGBTQ+ individuals. It sends the message that their relationships are less valid, which can have damaging effects on mental health, community cohesion, and overall well-being. Studies have consistently shown that the legalization of same-sex marriage has led to better mental health outcomes and greater societal acceptance for LGBTQ+ individuals. Maintaining a stance against same-sex marriage would perpetuate inequality and hinder progress for the LGBTQ+ community.</div><div><br></div><div>4. State Resources Should Support All Families</div><div>The states resources and protections should be focused on supporting all families, not discriminating against certain types of families. Same-sex couples, like opposite-sex couples, have the right to build families, raise children, and contribute to society. By opposing same-sex marriage, this resolution risks depriving these families of important legal protections such as inheritance rights, health care decision-making, tax benefits, and spousal privileges. The focus of state policy should be on supporting families, not denying legal rights to a segment of the population.</div><div><br></div><div>5. Setting Back Social Progress</div><div>North Dakota, like much of the country, has made significant strides in advancing civil rights and human dignity. By introducing a resolution that opposes same-sex marriage, the state would be taking a step backward in promoting tolerance, understanding, and acceptance. The progress made on LGBTQ+ rights over the past several decades has been hard-fought, and this resolution represents a dangerous reversal of that progress.</div><div><br></div><div>6. Harming North Dakotas Reputation</div><div>As more states and countries embrace marriage equality, North Dakota risks being seen as out of touch with the values of fairness, equality, and respect for human dignity. The state could face negative attention and potential economic consequences as companies, residents, and tourists increasingly prioritize social justice and inclusivity. Supporting same-sex marriage not only reflects respect for human rights, but it also demonstrates a commitment to a modern, inclusive, and welcoming society.</div><div><br></div><div>Conclusion</div><div>In conclusion, opposing same-sex marriage through this resolution would be a harmful and regressive move for North Dakota. It goes against the principles of equality, justice, and fairness, and undermines the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. This resolution fails to respect the U.S. Supreme Courts decision and would inflict harm on countless families and individuals who deserve the same rights as anyone else. North Dakota should continue its progress toward inclusion and equality, and this resolution should be rejected in favor of a more just, compassionate future for all.</div></body></html>

Greetings. I am a 57-year-old, lifetime resident of North Dakota, and have spent all my post graduate school years living in Fargo, providing health care to the residents of our state.

I would strongly advise an oppose vote on the following

HCR 3013. I believe all people deserve a right to marry if that is a value important to them, regardless of the gender of the person they love; as a country we agreed to this, and gave that right in 2015, let's not go back in time in North Dakota. Committed couples deserve what marriage affords, not just those who choose to have biological children.

I have a number of friends and co-workers in gay marriages. Those who we are lucky enough to have living and working in this state feel less and less welcome, and safe, when bills like this get drafted and supported. We have lost, and will continue to lose, fine people who make big contributions to the state if we continue to deny equal rights to those different from ourselves.

Thank you sincerely for your service to the people of our district and this state. Regardless of the party to which you identify, I trust you chose to serve for the right reasons, and I highly applaud your sacrifice!

Margo Norton  
District 46 resident  
#701-799-5883

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Senate Judiciary  
Chair and Committee Members

HRC 3013: Oppose

I, Dawn Kopp, reside in Bismarck where I also own property in District 32. I am frustrated and ashamed that the ND House voted in favor of HRC 3013.

HRC 3013 is a hurtful resolution that has the potential to harm many people in North Dakota - not just individuals in same sex marriages but also their families, friends, employers and more. For nearly an entire decade, same-sex marriage has been legal across the United States, which has helped lessen discrimination based on sexual orientation. Taking away this right is cruel and is wholly unnecessary. Human beings should not be judged on who they love and with whom they choose to spend their lives. If two consenting adults are fortunate enough to care about and love one another to the point they choose to marry, it should be celebrated not denied.

Supporting same-sex marriage is good for North Dakota as it shows that our state cares about the lives, health, and happiness of all citizens along with their families and those they support including employers. North Dakota has had an abundance of open jobs for decades. Taking away rights of North Dakotans is bad for business. If people don't feel supported or that they don't belong due to the loss of rights, they will relocate someplace where they do feel wanted and our state will lose out on their talent and skills.

I strongly encourage your DO NOT PASS recommendation and opposition to HRC 3013.

Best,



Dawn Kopp  
Bismarck, ND

Dear Chair and the members of the committee,

I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

I am an openly gay man who lives in Fargo, ND. I have made North Dakota my home my entire life. When looking at the impact North Dakota has had on my life, I don't see this bill demonstrating the type of inviting nature that "North Dakota nice" is all about. There is no reason why this bill should pass. There is absolutely no harm that comes from who someone wants to love. All this bill would do is send the message that I am not welcome in North Dakota. Love is love, and there should be no reason to have a debate about something that is truly only about someone loving who they want to love. No one should be scared about being who they truly are. I want to continue making North Dakota my home, and I want to feel safe and welcome in this state. Again, I strongly urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Nathan Kurtti

This is the first time I have ever submitted testimony on a bill. I am writing in opposition to Resolution 3013. All Americans deserve the same rights and responsibilities under the law. Those that are in a same sex marriage have just as much love for each other as marriage between a man and a woman. A same sex marriage does not harm anyone, or any marriage between a man and a woman. I do not think anything less of my marriage to my wife, just because somebody else is in a same-sex marriage.

I love this state, but this resolution is embarrassing. I want to be proud of North Dakota as a state that recognizes equal rights for all.

Brad Stockert  
1201 N 1st Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-527-4509  
[brad.a.stockert@gmail.com](mailto:brad.a.stockert@gmail.com)

**Testimony Against HCR3013**

A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

My name is Jacqueline Beller and I am a resident of Fargo in D46. My cousin and her partner were the first same-sex females to have a civil union service in Sioux Falls, SD. They both passed away before they had the opportunity to have a legally recognized wedding. They were in healthy, loving, and committed relationship and they deserved to have the same rights of any other married couple.

That this HCR passed the House makes me sick to my stomach. Cruelty seems to be the point and Jesus would be nonplussed.

Oberfell v. Hodges must stand. Equal rights is what the United States is about. Let's not go backward.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline K. Beller



I am an ND citizen and do not support this resolution. Please do not support HCR 3013.

Dani Krause  
Bismarck, North Dakota

March 10, 2025

Senate Judiciary Committee  
North Dakota State Capitol  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505

**Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013**

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013, which seeks to reaffirm a definition of marriage that has been unequivocally settled by the United States Supreme Court. As an attorney with over a decade of experience in civil law, I recognize the importance of legislative clarity and the rule of law. This resolution is not only unnecessary but also directly conflicts with established constitutional precedent.

The Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), affirmed that same-sex couples have a fundamental right to marry under the Fourteenth Amendment. This ruling rendered state bans on same-sex marriage unconstitutional, ensuring that marriage equality is the law of the land. HCR 3013 ignores this legal reality and sends an exclusionary message that undermines the rights of North Dakotans.

Legislation should serve the interests of **all** citizens and respect the constitutional framework under which our nation operates. HCR 3013 does neither. Instead, it attempts to relitigate an issue that courts have conclusively resolved, diverting attention from more pressing matters currently facing North Dakota.

As an attorney and resident of this state, I urge you to reject HCR 3013 and uphold the constitutional rights of all North Dakotans. Rather than revisiting settled law, our legislature should focus on policies that promote inclusivity, economic growth, and the well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dani Krause

Dani Krause  
Attorney at Law

March 10, 2025

North Dakota Legislature  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Good morning,

I am writing due to my growing concern over House Concurrent Resolution No. 3013. I am hoping those who claim to represent the residents of North Dakota actually read this letter, though I fear it will be ignored in the name of doing what is “right” by one’s religion, rather than daring to uphold the Constitution, to which you all took an oath.

When I first learned our legislature was preoccupied with attacking the legitimacy of gay marriage in our state rather than focusing on real issues that face North Dakotans every day, I thought it was sponsored by the minority and it would ultimately fail—because the North Dakota I thought I knew was better than this. Then, when I learned the resolution passed in the House and is now on its way to the Senate, I was utterly appalled and disgusted. Not only is it unethical and immoral to attack our LGBTQ neighbors and friends in this way, it is a waste of resources, time, and taxpayer funds. Our legislature only meets once every two years. The majority of North Dakotans would prefer you take your limited time at the capital to improve the lives of the working middle class, not take rights away from people who have done nothing to deserve such hatred and bigotry.

I would like to address the arguments Mr. Tveit makes in support of this resolution. He specifically argues marriage should be defined as between one man and one woman because that is how procreation occurs. My first question (of many) is, does Mr. Tveit genuinely believe that if gay marriage is not lawful in North Dakota (or the United States for that matter) that homosexual individuals will feel they have no other choice than to marry someone of the opposite sex and procreate? If so, that is ludicrous! Additionally, what about heterosexual couples who cannot have children, or choose not to have children? Are their marriages less legitimate than those who have children?

Mr. Tveit also seems to emphasize the importance of people having children in order to successfully sustain a country. What about all the children in foster care waiting to be adopted? Isn’t it also important for a country to promote stable homes for those children? And that’s not even mentioning the number of lesbian and gay couples who seek sperm donation and surrogacy as a means to have and raise children.

Finally, Mr. Tveit said, “If same-sex couples desire a collaborative union of a sort, or a legal bonding, they must call it anything but marriage.” This is exactly what I would expect someone who does not understand the law to say.

Mr. Tveit, since you seem confused, let me explain something. The term “marriage” is a legal term of art, which has widespread legal implications, not only on a state level, but also on a

federal level. To require same sex couples to “call it anything but marriage” would prevent those couples from taking advantage of certain tax benefits and inheritance rights of which heterosexual couples get to enjoy. In order for same sex couples to then benefit from these state and federal advantages of marriage, the “new term” for same-sex marriage would need to be added to tax laws, probate laws, and other applicable statutes. This is the problem with your so called “solution.” It creates more “problems” than it solves—that is to say, same-sex marriage creates no problem for anyone other than for people who are homophobic.

That leads me to my next question, Mr. Tveit, why “must” the state or federal government call a union between a same-sex couple something other than marriage? What do your neighbors’ same sex marriages take away from your heterosexual marriage? You know you and your colleagues have not brought this resolution out of genuine concern or care for the people of North Dakota. You want to show same-sex couples that you are “better” than them, and they are not welcome here. But I, and many other North Dakotans, are here to tell you, your hatred has no place here, least of all in our government.

Allowing same sex marriage in North Dakota, and in the United States, is a right so basic and fundamental that it should be protected and celebrated. I hope the members of the Senate will do the right thing and protect *all* North Dakotans by not passing House Concurrent Resolution 3013. These attacks on marginalized communities has to stop. North Dakota is better than this.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Johansen', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Robin Johansen  
Fargo, ND 58104

**Testimony of Pastor Jared Carson  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Lutheran Pastor  
Before the North Dakota Senate  
In Opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013**

2/25/25

Honorable Members of the North Dakota Senate,

I write today as an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), standing in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013. As a faith leader, I have the responsibility and privilege to guide my congregation and community in accordance with both the teachings of Scripture and the principles of justice enshrined in our nation's Constitution. The resolution under consideration threatens the rights of same-sex couples to marry, and in doing so, it strikes at the very heart of both my faith and my understanding of constitutional law.

First, I turn to Scripture to offer a theological foundation for my support of same-sex marriage. Though there are disagreements in the broader Christian tradition, Lutheran theology—centered on grace, love, and justice—compels me to affirm the right of same-sex couples to marry in the eyes of God and the Church.

**Galatians 3:28 (NRSV)** – “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” This passage speaks powerfully to the unity and equality that all believers have in Christ. The love that binds us together is not conditioned on gender, race, or status. As such, when two people—regardless of gender—are committed to loving one another and sharing their lives in marriage, they should not be denied that sacred union in the eyes of the Church or the state.

**Mark 12:29-31 (NRSV)** – “Jesus answered, ‘The first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’”

Love is the central commandment of our Christian faith. To withhold the opportunity for loving couples to be legally united is a violation of the call to love one another. Same-sex couples, like all couples, should have the opportunity to live out this commandment fully in their relationships, including marriage.

Second, from a legal perspective, the right to marry is a constitutionally protected right for all citizens, including same-sex couples. The United States Supreme Court, in its landmark decision *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), affirmed that same-sex couples have the right to marry under the Constitution. This ruling is grounded in principles of equal protection and due process under the 14th Amendment. To attempt to overturn or limit this ruling through legislation such as

HCR 3013 would not only violate the constitutional rights of same-sex couples, but it would also infringe upon the free exercise of my faith as a pastor, as well as the rights of other clergy who wish to solemnize marriages for all couples, regardless of gender.

As a pastor, I am called to serve all people, to extend the love and grace of God, and to marry those who seek the blessings of God in their union. Same-sex couples, like all couples, deserve the dignity and respect that comes with marriage—both as a legal right and as a sacred covenant before God.

Additionally, North Dakota faces a workforce shortage. Policies that exclude or discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals and same-sex couples do nothing to enhance our communities. Rather, they drive skilled workers and families from our state, leaving North Dakota less competitive in attracting talent and fostering growth. It is clear that fostering inclusivity and support for all people is crucial for the success of our state and our economy.

Finally, on a deeply personal note, I have friends and family members who have received the protection and blessing of same-sex marriage. The thought of removing this right from those I love and care for fills me with sadness and anger. The harm such resolution would cause is real, not just to the couples affected, but to the communities that thrive on love, commitment, and mutual respect.

I urge the North Dakota Senate to stand for justice, equality, and love by voting No on HCR 3013. To take away the rights of same-sex couples is morally wrong, unconstitutional, and a violation of the free exercise of my faith as a pastor. Please do not allow this harmful resolution to pass.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Jared Carson  
ELCA Lutheran Pastor, Grand Forks, ND

To: House Judiciary Committee

**Requested Action: Do Not Pass HCR 3013**

I am writing to express my opposition to HCR 3013. This resolution sends the message that our state does not value the principles of equality and dignity for all ND citizens.

As a state, we should strive to be a place of kindness, inclusion, and respect, where all residents feel valued and supported.

Moreover, this resolution sends a divisive message, creating unnecessary harm and perpetuating intolerance. Please consider the negative impact this resolution has already made and further hurt this will cause if passed.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Christine Kujawa  
ND Citizen

Sylvia Bull

Regarding House Continuing Resolution No. 3013

10 March 2025

To the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I urge a strong NO vote on House Continuing Resolution 3013. I fail to see how this resolution benefits the lives of *any* North Dakotans. Rather, it is an attack on hardworking LGBTQ+ North Dakotans and their families. Society benefits when people's marriages and families are legally recognized and protected and publicly accountable. LGBTQ+ North Dakotans deserve equal protection under the law for their marriages and their families. This resolution's aim to encourage the Supreme Court to strip this right away serves no purpose other than harm. As a Christian pastor, I do not and will not stand for legislation that causes deliberate harm to my neighbors.

Again, I urge you to vote NO on House Continuing Resolution 3013. Please direct your efforts to legislation that serves and *benefits* the lives of all North Dakotans, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Sylvia Bull  
Bismarck, District 32 resident



I am a ND citizen (born, raised, and still living in Minot ). I do NOT support HCR 3013. I respect all individuals' rights to love whomever they wish and they should be accorded the same rights as anyone else in this state/country. Please do not support HCR 3013. Thank you.  
Sherry Heilmann

March 10, 2025

Senate Judiciary Chair & Committee members:

My name is Renee Newton and I am in opposition of HCR 3013. While this is just a letter saying the legislators representing EVERYONE in the state want to see Obergefell v Hodges overturned, it is a message to all in the state that same-sex marriage is not to be honored. I was married to a man for 28 years. How many of you can say that? Now that my marriage is a same-sex one, does it mean less? Should it mean that on my dying bed, my wife should not be allowed in the room? I don't think that's anyone's choice but mine. If the Supreme Court overturns the decision that made it legal for same-sex marriage across this country and it is left up for the states to decide, what happens to all of the couples already married? Do all of those legal rights gained by marriage just dissolve? What about insurance coverage? Transfer of property? End of life decisions? There are more questions than answers here.

I urge you to recommend a DO NOT PASS on this resolution.

Sincerely,  
Renee Newton  
Dickinson ND

To whom it may concern,

This bill to negate or prevent someone from marrying whomever they choose to love is uncaring, un-American, and against all the freedom we claim to bring to the people that live here. I am asking this as a human, Republican, and resident of North Dakota; why is this subject even a cause to bring forth? Why is this even burdening anyone? If you prefer the opposite sex, how does it even affect you when other people don't? It does, however, very personally affect the people who just want to live their life with the person they want to be with in the state they want to live in. This is a shameful act of persecution that I am not proud to admit my home state is even bringing forth. With all due respect, let's be better. Let's let people care for, and care about, whoever they want. This isn't a problem, so it doesn't need fixing. Move on to the next line of business and fix actual problems in the state of North Dakota.

Thank you

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in opposition of HCR 3013 to re-define the definition of marriage to between a man and a woman. I can speak personally on this topic, since I have been happily married to my wife for 5 years. We have two beautiful children (3.5 and 2 yo) and have lived in ND for the last 7 years. We add value to the state of North Dakota by being active, responsible, dedicated, and committed members of the community, consistently upholding the values that foster growth and support for all.

Re-defining marriage as solely between a man and a woman would be a step backward, limiting progress toward a more inclusive, accepting future where all individuals are free to love and commit without facing discrimination or societal barriers.

If this bill were to move forward, it could lead to significant repercussions, including the loss of legal protections for same-sex couples in areas such as insurance benefits, end-of-life decisions, and child custody, while invalidating the marriages of those already in same-sex unions, leaving them vulnerable to legal and financial challenges. I do not feel that the repercussions have been considered and rather the focus is on pushing some of the representatives' agendas on everyone to restore their old-school, and small-minded beliefs.

Love is a beautiful gift, and not everyone has the opportunity to experience it. Instead of wasting resources on limiting people's rights to love whomever they choose, let's shift our focus to addressing the real issues facing North Dakota that truly deserves our time, attention and resources.

Arthur Schaper mentioned in his testimony that "it is children who suffer" when marriage is not defined as between a man and a woman. In 2024 only 70% of children are being raised in a two-parent household. There is no guarantee that in these two-parent households both parents are equally an active participant, creating a positive and enriching environment for their children. I hope that everyone can agree that the most important thing in a child's life is being loved and raised in a caring, safe and supportive environment. I can speak personally to this, being raised by a single mother. That was a better option than my parents staying together, with me growing up in a home where I would witness domestic violence and abuse, despite having both a mom and dad present. He also said "strong families are the backbone of a strong nation". It takes an insurmountable amount of strength to build a family as a same sex couple. From fertility help to financial strains to physical and emotional rollercoasters, same sex (and opposite sex) couples who start the daunting journey of fertility help are the perfect examples of "strong families" as it takes strength, courage, hope, and perseverance. Arthur also said that "there is no evidence that individuals are born homosexual", I argue that there is no evidence that individuals are

born heterosexual, or republican or democratic, ect. The point is erroneous. Lastly he said “this is not the live and let live society that we were promised”. The idea behind that saying is; an expression that means allowing others to live their lives as they choose, without interference or judgment. It promotes tolerance, respect for individual freedom, and the idea that people should coexist peacefully, even if their lifestyles or beliefs differ from one's own. It seems that his interpretation of the saying was misguided.

We are your medical professionals, teachers, church members, children, aunts/uncles, volunteers, neighbors, tax-payers, coaches, ect. Who we love does not change that. I strongly encourage you to vote no on HCR 3013 to redefine marriage as between a man and a woman.

Nicole Jefferson

West Fargo, ND

Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013,

I am strongly OPPOSED to the concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

I miss the days when North Dakota was more Libertarian, when nobody cared what their neighbors were doing as long as it didn't affect others. This made for such a welcoming environment, knowing that people could be themselves and hold their freedoms in the way they saw fit. It's what I used to love about our state, that one can have a different lifestyle that doesn't affect anyone around me, and that's okay. The law should never infringe on the rights of consenting adults to make choices that don't harm anyone else. Two consenting adults choosing to marry each other does not infringe on your rights, nor cause you any harm. However, voting to restrict this right does irreparable mental harm to thousands whose rights you would be threatening to take away, and potential future harm to the legal rights of people who just to freely love another person.

Therefore, it seems to me religion is the only reason this resolution is being considered, which makes it entirely unconstitutional. The only logical vote for HCR 3013 is NO.

Sincerely,

Kristin Michels

Resident of District 3

March 10, 2025

I write today as a clergy leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). As a Lutheran Deacon, my call is specifically to advocate and serve where the church and the world meet. Marriage is one of those places as it is both a legal contract as well as a religious commitment for people of faith.

As a Christian faith leader, I turn to scripture to guide my understanding and perspective. According to the Old Testament, marriage was not exclusively defined as being between one man and one woman, as we see examples of polygamous marriage and non-marital relationships. In the New Testament book of Galatians, we are reminded that "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28). In my Christian faith, this is a powerful reminder of the unity and equality we share in Christ. Our unity and equality is bound up in love and grace that is at the heart of Jesus' teachings. Both my own understanding of scripture and my faith tradition affirm and celebrate the union of two people in marriage regardless of gender. My faith tradition also compels me to advocate for the protection and rights of all people, including same-gendered couples.

As I meet with fellow North Dakotans, and fellow Lutherans around the state, I am struck by their deep sense of community and robust care for their neighbor. They desire that their neighbor thrive and are cared for. HRC 3013 does not reflect care and protection for all people, including the North Dakota residents who have entered into same-gender marriages. This does not reflect North Dakota values and undermines our commitment to neighbor-love.

I urge a Do Not Pass on HRC 3013

Deacon Erin Power  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Fargo, ND

Testimony of Tammi Jalowiec  
Before the North Dakota Senate  
In Opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013

March 10, 2025

I write today in opposition to North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013.

The right to marry is a constitutionally protected right for all citizens, including same-sex couples. The United States Supreme Court, in its landmark decision *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), affirmed that same-sex couples have the right to marry under the Constitution. This ruling is grounded in principles of equal protection and due process under the 14th Amendment. Like all heterosexual couples, same-sex couples deserve the same dignity and respect that comes with marriage. To attempt to overturn or limit this ruling would violate the constitutional rights of same-sex couples.

Policies that exclude or discriminate against same-sex couples and LGBTQ+ individuals negatively impact communities. They create division, make communities less desirable, and drive people away from the state. Such policies would make North Dakota be less competitive in attracting talent and as a result, the economy would suffer.

I know couples in same-sex marriages. Their love for each other and their families harms no one. Yet these couples would experience real harm if HCR 3013 is passed and their constitutional rights are stripped away as a result.

I urge the North Dakota Senate to uphold the Constitution and take a stand for justice, equality, and love and by voting, "No," on HCR 3013. Please do not allow this harmful resolution to pass.

Sincerely,

Tammi Jalowiec



The resolution HCR 3013 urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman does not change or improve the value of the marriage, rights or legal benefits of heterosexual couples. This resolution will however, cause harm to our current or prospective citizens in North Dakota that are in a same-sex marriage.

As a resident of North Dakota, I do not agree with HCR 3013. Although HCR 3013 has no direct legal impact, the indirect outcome is harmful. It sends a clear message to our same-sex couple families that they are not wanted or safe here to be in committed relationships or raise children here. This resolution causes an atmosphere of fear and anxiety for same-sex couples and their children. Many of the same-sex families I know personally in Minot are from North Dakota and chose to stay/return and raise their children here. Speaking to several of the families, this resolution has caused them to question whether they are safe here and whether they should even live in ND. These are families that are business owners, teachers, doctors, and active members of our communities. Our communities are stronger and better for having their part in it. Please vote no to this resolution as passing this resolution only brings harm to current and future North Dakota citizens.

North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013) is a harmful attempt to undermine the constitutional rights of same-sex couples and challenge the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges decision. This resolution, which seeks to redefine marriage as a union exclusively between one man and one woman, is not only an attack on the LGBTQ+ community but also a direct violation of the principles of equality, civil rights, and legal precedent.

HCR 3013 fosters discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals and sends a harmful message that their relationships are invalid or inferior. Marriage equality has real-world implications for families, including rights related to healthcare, inheritance, adoption, taxation, and social security benefits. Attempting to strip away these rights would cause direct harm to thousands of legally married same-sex couples and their families in North Dakota and beyond.

I strongly urge a “Do Not Pass” vote.

Eric Melby

West Fargo, District 16 resident

I am writing in opposition to bill HCR 3013 defining marriage between one man and one woman. I think it's insane that in 2025 we are even talking about this and that our state voted to move this bill forward. I have lived in this area my whole life and I love this state, but I do not agree with our government on this issue. We are going backwards. I teach my kids to love and respect everyone no matter what their sexual preference is. People's sexual preference does not affect anyone else. Nobody is telling you to be gay, nor should you be able to tell someone to not be gay. Religion needs to stay out of politics. We don't all have the same beliefs and that is okay. That is what makes America great- we have the right to choose who we want to be, who we want to love and what we want to believe in without fear that those rights may be taken away. What if we questioned your straight marriage, imagine how hurt and angry you would be if you legally had to divorce your spouse, and your children were no longer considered yours all because of who you love. Imagine that you may lose your medical benefits because you are not legally married. Gay people are not the problem. The problem is our government trying to control people and creating a division between people, all based on your own personal beliefs. We live in one of the greatest countries- home of the free where people should not be afraid to love the people they want to love. I did not serve my country for 6 years in the military to have North Dakota try to dictate people's personal lives. We have murders, sicknesses, suicides, homeless people, drugs, families who can't afford school lunches and are sleeping on the streets and you are worried about two people of the same gender loving each other and being happy? REALLY?

DO BETTER NORTH DAKOTA.

Signed,

A straight, religious, white woman who is very disappointed in the people I helped chose to run this state.

-Ashley Ross

## Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013

Submitted by Bridget Sherwood

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairperson and members of the committee,

The fight for same-sex marriage is not just a battle for equal rights—it's a fight for the very essence of **freedom**, for the right to live authentically, unapologetically, and without compromise. Love is not a crime, and no law should ever make us feel less than human for loving who we choose. This is not just about marriage—it's about power, control, and the relentless pursuit of justice. The state does not own our bodies, our love, or our lives.

And let's be crystal clear: the separation of church and state is non-negotiable. We will not stand by while religious institutions, steeped in centuries of oppression, continue to dictate our civil rights. **The government must serve the people**, not any one set of beliefs. It's time to abolish the influence of religion over our laws once and for all. Our lives, our love, our rights are not up for debate, and we will not accept theocracy in disguise. We demand a world where love is free, where the government stops bowing to religious authority, and where equality is the baseline, not the exception. Please recommend a **Do Not Pass** on HCR 3013.

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am opposed to HCR 3013 because it is Anti-North Dakota and Anti-Family as well as against Article I Section 1 of the ND constitution.

I have known many individuals who are LGBTQ, and I can tell you that it isn't a choice. These are kind and generous individuals who are productive members of our society. If you want to state that we want our laws to be based on the bible then, I ask that you remember that the Bible prohibits wearing wool and linen in on garment see Leviticus 19:19 and Deuteronomy 22:11 so let's make these fabrics illegal. While we are at it lets get into Deuteronomy 22:9 and make sure that two crops cannot be planted side by side. Let's also make all football teams illegal since they touching of a skin of a dead pig is against the bible Leviticus 11:7. I can go on because the Bible has many others, including selling children, stoning relatives for violation of the Bible, and more.

Since the resolution states that there is 800 years of tradition on this, then please request that the Supreme Court overturns Loving v Virginia which outlawed interracial marriage. That was decided in 1967, and North Dakota only had that law in place from 1948 to 1967. Should we go after that one next? How about Brown v Board of Education of Topeka Kansas 1954 or Heart of Atlanta Hotel, Inc. v United States 1964? That list also can go on and on.

It is Biology and since God doesn't make mistakes, then God made them this way.

I know that Republicans are the party of freedom, responsibility, and less government. Going after someone for who they love or spend time behind closed doors seems contrary to freedom that is stated in the resolution. If liberty is Individual Freedom, what right does the government have to tell people who they can marry.

The North Dakota legislative body should be more concerned with governing than with deciding whose rights trump others as well as whose love trumps another individual.

Thank you for your time.

Eric Gaasland.

Citizen.

Dear Chairman Klemin, Vice Chairs Karls and Vetter, fellow committee members:

I write to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013, which seeks to define marriage as solely between one man and one woman. As someone who was born and raised in this state and plans to raise my children here, I am deeply concerned about the direction this legislation would take us. If this bill passes, I will be forced to reconsider whether this is the place I want to call home, as I refuse to raise my children in a state that legislates discrimination.

The reality is that people will love who they want to love, whether the law recognizes that love or not. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry does not change the existence of their relationships—it only strips them of the legal protections that marriage provides.

One of the most critical aspects of marriage is the legal ability to access medical insurance and benefits. Same-sex couples deserve the same rights and protections as heterosexual couples when it comes to ensuring their families are cared for. Preventing marriage equality does not prevent love—it prevents families from accessing essential rights like medical coverage, inheritance, and parental protections.

Furthermore, data consistently shows that same-sex marriages have some of the lowest rates of divorce and CPS intervention. This is largely because same-sex couples must undergo immense financial and legal hurdles to have children, whether through adoption, surrogacy, or other means. These families are often some of the most prepared, stable, and committed households, and yet, this bill seeks to deny them equal recognition.

The notion that marriage is strictly between one man and one woman is not grounded in science, religion, or history. Across cultures and time periods, marriage has taken many forms, often evolving to reflect society's growth and understanding of human relationships. This bill is an attempt to impose a narrow and exclusionary definition that does not reflect the diversity or lived experiences of the people in our state.

For these reasons, I urge you to issue a "Do Not Pass" recommendation on HCR 3013.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state.

Sincerely,

Sarah Goerts

Proud homeowner in Horace, North Dakota

March 10, 2025

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HCR 3013.

I am an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ, which is a mainline Christian denomination with roots in the Congregational, Christian, German Reformed, and Evangelical Churches. As a denomination, the United Church of Christ has been officially supporting marriage equality for all people since 2005. For 20 years, my Christian denomination has been publicly asking the United States of America to officially recognize marriage equality for same gender loving couples. Boards within the United Church of Christ first began approving marriage equality from a theological perspective in 1996, almost 30 years ago.

We are not alone in this. The Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) have supported same-sex marriage since 1968, when the denomination was founded. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) began supporting marriage equality for same-sex couples in 1996. Reform Judaism has been supporting civil marriage for same-sex couples since 1996. The Alliance of Baptists adopted a statement supporting marriage equality for all citizens, including same-sex couples, in 2004. The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association endorsed same-sex marriage in 2004. Humanistic Judaism publicly supported the legal recognition of same-sex marriage in 2004. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) welcomed marriage equality for same-sex unions in 2009. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) began campaigning for legal same-sex marriage in 2009. Conservative Judaism formally approved same-sex marriage in 2012 and they had been allowing the blessing of same-sex unions since 2006. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has supported marriage equality for same-gender couples since 2013. The Old Catholic Church began recognizing same-sex marriages in 2014. The Presbyterian Church (USA) voted to allow same-sex marriage in 2014. The Episcopal Church sanctioned same-sex marriages in 2015.

HCR 3013 would violate the free exercise of religion for a large number North Dakotans who already recognize the sacredness of marriage for all couples, regardless of gender.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state. I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HCR 3013 and “No” votes on the floor.

Peace,

Rev. Gretchen Deeg  
United Church of Christ Pastor  
Bismarck, ND

March 10, 2025

Dear Senate Judiciary Chairperson and members:

My name is Michelle Holman, and I am in strong opposition to HCR 3013.

This resolution disregards the equality that all citizens of the United States have and deserve per the Supreme Court's ruling from 2015. Intentionally stripping the rights of any citizens is deeply un-American, for our laws exist to protect every citizen.

Let's also not overlook the simple fact that no single entity owns marriage. Secular or non-secular, marriage should not be exclusionary or weaponized. Marriage strengthens families and communities across all 50 states. One couple's happiness should not be contingent on another person's intolerance.

Thank you for your time and consideration of a DO NOT PASS vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Holman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Holman  
ND District 35



Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013), which seeks to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman. I urge you to vote "Do Not Pass" on this resolution for several important reasons.

Firstly, HCR 3013 is a direct challenge to the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which recognized the constitutional right of same-sex couples to marry. This landmark ruling affirmed the principles of equality and non-discrimination, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the right to marry the person they love. By attempting to overturn this decision, HCR 3013 undermines these fundamental principles and promotes inequality.

Secondly, the resolution fails to recognize the diverse and inclusive nature of our society. Marriage is a deeply personal and significant commitment that should be accessible to all consenting adults, regardless of gender. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry not only discriminates against them but also sends a harmful message that their relationships are less valid or worthy than those of opposite-sex couples.

As a gay individual who has lived in North Dakota for my entire life I have experienced firsthand the importance of acceptance and equality. I have contributed meaningfully to our community and believe that everyone deserves the same rights and recognition, regardless of their sexual orientation. Promoting inclusivity and equality is also crucial for attracting and retaining young people in North Dakota. Ensuring that our state is welcoming to all individuals will help us build a vibrant and diverse community that encourages young people to stay and contribute to our state's growth.

Furthermore, HCR 3013 does not align with the priorities and values of the people of North Dakota. Our state has made significant progress in promoting inclusivity and acceptance, and this resolution represents a step backward. It is essential that our laws reflect the principles of equality and justice for all citizens, and HCR 3013 fails to do so.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the negative implications of HCR 3013 and vote "Do Not Pass" on this resolution. By doing so, you will uphold the values of equality, non-discrimination, and inclusivity that are essential to a just and fair society.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Paige E. Phillips

District 40

March 10, 2025

To the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I write to you as an incredibly proud alumna and benefactor of the University of North Dakota and a member of North Dakota United which represents Faculty and Staff at UND to express my personal opposition to HCR 3013 and ask your committee to give it a “do NOT pass” recommendation and vote NO on this resolution. This resolution really serves no purpose other than to show the rest of the nation (and the world) that North Dakota is unwelcome and intolerant to some of the brightest minds in the world.

I was born and raised in Langdon, ND. The daughter of a first-generation American whose father immigrated to the United States as a baby and started a small business that is still thriving nearly one-hundred years later. My life as an LGBTQ+ individual in North Dakota hasn't been easy, yet I am so proud to have been born here and had the privilege to earn a PhD from one of our public institutions. Since the House passed this resolution, I have received personal messages from friends and colleagues across the US, Canada and as far away as Norway asking if this is really happening here, in their North Dakota.

I currently serve as the chair for the LGBTQ Faculty and Staff Association at UND. This fall, I sent out a survey to members and I asked them to voluntarily respond to an impact survey on what they contribute to the University. Fifteen LGBTQ+ members responded, and those fifteen people have brought in approximately \$19,000,000 in outside funding to the University of North Dakota, a portion of which goes to the University for administrative costs. That list also includes numerous publications and examples of service to Grand Forks, the State of North Dakota, the region, and the nation.

Passing resolutions that have a negative impact such as this one that makes North Dakota an unwelcoming state will make it very difficult to recruit, train, and retain the most gifted and talented individuals in their fields. I have shared the results of this self-survey with members of the judiciary committee and am more than willing to share that information with each of you.

Should this resolution pass, is sent to the United States Supreme Court, and the United States Supreme Court ultimately decides to overturn

Obergefell v. Hodges, what happens? Currently North Dakota has a pause on an appeal of their Gay Marriage Ban. Does this mean that North Dakota will automatically be spending another large amount on lawsuits that it could be spending in other places, for things that don't cast us as an unwelcoming place? What is the price that you are willing to spend to defend bigotry? Bigotry that does not belong in North Dakota and, as we have seen in the past couple of weeks, the majority of North Dakotans do not support and do not want.

It is for these reasons, I respectfully ask your committee to give HCR 3013 a "do NOT pass" recommendation and encourage committee members to vote NO on this resolution.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bridget Brooks

Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a Do Not Pass on HCR 3013.

By asking the Supreme Court to discriminate based on the sex and gender in marriage, what this bill is doing is negating the very promise of our free state. My friends, family, and peers all have the right to marry who they want, with the hope that their government supports them lawfully. It's ridiculous that this bill would even be introduced. I find so many more factors being of more concern. Namely, the funding for schools, healthcare, agriculture. Again, I urge a "Do Not Pass" on this bill. Please allow us to exist in peace and equality.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Bee Hayes

I am writing to you in opposition of HCR 3013 to re-define the definition of marriage to between a man and a woman.

One thing should be crystal clear to the members of the Senate, should they consider passing this resolution. Nothing stops any of them from suing or from attempting to bring such a challenge to overturn Obergefell v. Hodges before the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court would never take up such a challenge, because not a single person in the US has standing. Nobody has been discriminated against by the right to equal marriage. Nobody has ever been harmed by someone else getting married. There are only two ways that do not discriminate against anyone: Have a right to marry for everyone, or for nobody. I urge you to entertain this thought experiment: If you're married to a member of the opposite sex, and were to be treated the way a same-sex couple would be treated without the right to marry, you would lose all the legal benefits and protections. You would lose your tax breaks, the right to be informed on your partners health should they be in an accident and end up in a hospital, make medical decisions for them, protections after getting divorced, spousal and survivors benefits through Social Security, inheritance rights, lower insurance premiums. Your partner will be as closely related to you by law as any stranger off the street. If you think this is a fair treatment based on sex and your partner's sex, you should be willing to suffer the same penalty. Should the decision on same-sex marriage fall back to the state of North Dakota, you will have to answer these questions in the following legislative sessions and in court. You will have to answer why some citizens of North Dakota get to enjoy these benefits, and some don't, solely based on their sex or their partner's sex.

In addition, the committee should feel encouraged to research in which countries same-sex marriage is legal, and where it is illegal. They might find that the U.S. does not need to join countries such as Iran and Russia if it deems itself the leader of the free world.

**Mr. or Madam Chairman and members of the committee,**

My name is Hannah Carlson, and I am from Bismarck, ND. I cannot support ND HCR3013 and urge a “DO NOT PASS.”

I have proudly called North Dakota home for all 31 years of my life. But what I am even more proud of is my five years of marriage to my wife. She is not a North Dakota native, but she has called this state home for the last eight years. She is a phenomenal 9-1-1 dispatcher for the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services at State Radio—an asset to the state in many ways. She is a trainer, a leader, and was even voted Dispatcher of the Year by her peers. I could go on, but that is not the point.

We have built a life together—a life that was legally granted to us before we ever met. In that time, we have joined our lives financially, medically, and in countless other ways.

Growing up, my parents always said they hoped I would find a love like theirs. While my wife may not be Prince Charming, I did find my fairy tale. Loving her until one of us takes our last breath is something I am blessed to do. While I hope that day is many decades away, I am grateful for the security that *Obergefell v. Hodges* provides—ensuring that we are protected in all the ways we have built our life together. When the time comes that we must part, we deserve to remain protected—medically, financially, and legally.

Justice Kennedy said it best, and we proudly displayed his words at our wedding:

“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.”

We ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law.

For 31 years, I have been proud to call North Dakota home. Friends and family assured me that what is happening right now with HCR3013 would never happen. Yet, here we are. It *is* happening, and for the first time, I do not feel proud to call North Dakota home. My elected officials have made it painfully clear how they feel about my existence by bringing this resolution forward.

Although reports vary slightly, there are an estimated 20,000 to 28,000 members of the LGBTQ+ community in North Dakota, with upwards of 12,000 of us in the workforce. I cannot speak for all of us, but I can say this: We will go where we are wanted. Last year, North Dakota was the sixth most moved-from state. In 2024, our state had a net gain of 4,835 people—5,126 of whom were international immigrants.

If you are married, I ask you to think of your spouse. Think of the joys you have shared in marriage. Would you not be offended if someone told you that you should settle for a domestic partnership or a legal directive as the only hope of tying you together at the end of life’s journey? What if you took a trip to another state where your marriage was not recognized, and the unthinkable happened—leaving you without the ability to care for your spouse?

I am thinking of my spouse. I am thinking of every young woman like me who knows she isn’t looking for Prince Charming—that her fairy tale looks different. I want better for them. I hope they never have to stand in front of strangers, pleading to be seen as equals. I hope for them long, healthy marriages and equal dignity in the eyes of the law.

**Thank you,**

Hannah Carlson

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

I submit the following testimony **in opposition** to HCR 3013.

I urge you to reject HCR 3013 and instead stand for the fundamental principle that all Americans—including the North Dakotans you represent—deserve equal rights under the law, regardless of whom they love.

I understand the rationale some lawmakers may be using to justify their votes “This is only a resolution, it doesn’t actually impact the laws of ND.” But resolutions like this do **real** harm—not just to those in same-sex marriages, but to our entire state. It sends a loud and clear message of ‘you are not welcome here.’

North Dakota has real challenges to focus on. Our legislative time and energy should be spent on topics that actually matter to the people of this state, not on divisive resolutions such as these that deny dignity and respect to our own citizens.

Please give HCR 3013 a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation, and let’s get back to the more meaningful business of the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Mathern

District 27, Fargo, ND



First off, I want to applaud Rep. Austin Foss for having the courage to speak out on the House floor. He showed a tremendous amount of bravery amongst the many homophobic colleagues, that, moments later, voted to invalidate his marriage.

### **I STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY & ALL LEGISLATION THAT SEEKS TO BAN SAME-SEX MARRIAGE.**

Anti LGBTQ+ views are antiquated, no longer relevant in today's day and age and are a ridiculous distraction, not to mention a huge waste of tax payer's money. It's yet another bill to promote division, discrimination, bigotry and hatred. Must we continually make LGBTQ+ people feel unwelcome and thus, flee our state? Is this what we want North Dakota to be known for?

If this bill passes, exactly how do legislators plan to invalidate every same-sex marriage?

No matter what happens with this bill, I will never believe that my sister's marriage, my friend's marriage or the numerous cousins that are married, will ever be considered invalid. Furthermore, I already love my son's future husband – the one he has yet to meet and marry – the one we pray for.

Anyone with an ounce of intelligence knows that people do not “choose” to be gay. You aren't going to change them using conversion therapy methods. And you surely won't be able to pray the gay away. Some Christians use the phrase “hate the sin, not the sinner” so they can sound nicer about hating people. My swift and immediate response is, “Hate the belief, not the believer.”

Love is something worth fighting for and I refuse to stop fighting for what is right. It's time to protect everyone's right to love who they want.

I urge you to reject any legislation that seeks to restrict the right to marriage based on sexual orientation. Let us stand together to uphold the principles of equality and justice for all.

Wouldn't it be great if North Dakota's mission statement were this? →

**North Dakota, we must do better.  
Vote No on HB3013.**

With hope,

Susan R. Long  
Berlin, ND

**IF YOU ARE...**  
**INQUIRING, SEARCHING, SAVED,**  
**BLACK, BROWN, YELLOW, WHITE,**  
**GAY, STRAIGHT, SURE, UNSURE,**  
**OLDER, YOUNGER, PEACE-FILLED,**  
**PAIN-FILLED, ABLE-BODIED OR**  
**DIFFERENTLY-ABLED...NO MATTER**  
**HOW MANY MOMS OR DADS**  
**OR DIVORCES OR KIDS OR**  
**CHROMOSOMES OR FAILURES**  
**OR SUCCESSES OR QUESTIONS**  
**OR PROBLEMS YOU MAY HAVE...**  
**NO MATTER YOUR POLITICAL**  
**STANCE OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS,**  
**NO MATTER YOUR GENDER**  
**OR STATUS OR WHERE**  
**YOU ARE WITH THAT...**  
**YOU WILL ALWAYS**  
**BE ACCEPTED HERE.**

Dear Committee Members,

As a life long resident of North Dakota and as your constituent, I urge you to represent North Dakota residents well, and vote no on bill 3013. There are too many benefits of having same sex couples reside in our state. If this bill passes, they will be forced to take their skills, families, and income elsewhere. Here are just a few benefits for having legal same-sex marriages in North Dakota:

Continuing to recognize the legality of same-sex marriage can improve North Dakota's reputation as a progressive state that supports human rights and equality. It could also help attract people and businesses that prioritize inclusivity.

Legal recognition can provide protections for children raised by same-sex couples, including inheritance, custody, and healthcare rights. It also fosters stability and security for families, as they are legally recognized.

Supporting legal same-sex marriage can be seen as a reflection of North Dakota's progress toward creating a more inclusive, tolerant, and compassionate society, where individuals are free to love who they choose without facing legal barriers.

These are just a few reasons why continuing to have legal same-sex marriage in North Dakota has a positive impact on both individuals and the state as a whole.

Please vote no on HCR 3013.

Johanna Mongeon  
Rolette ND 58366

Dear Senator

As a life long resident of North Dakota and as your constituent, I urge you to consider these several financial benefits that come with having same-sex couples in our state. Some of which would only benefit North Dakota if same-sex marriage continues to be legalized. Therefore, I would encourage you to vote no on 3013. Here are a few:

**1. Increased Tax Revenue.** With the legalization of same-sex marriage, same-sex couples gain access to tax benefits such as joint tax filings, which can encourage more couples to get married, thus increasing the number of people paying marriage-related taxes, including licensing fees, property taxes, and sales tax on wedding-related purchases. This results in higher tax revenues for the state.

**2. Increased Consumer Spending.** Legalizing same-sex marriage contributes to increased consumer spending, particularly in industries that support weddings and family life. For example, retail, homeownership, and healthcare industries may see increased revenue as more couples settle in the state, buy homes, and spend money on products and services for their families.

**3. Attracting Skilled Workers and Businesses.** States that support equality and inclusivity may be more attractive to businesses, particularly tech, creative, and other progressive industries that prioritize diversity. This, in turn, could attract more professionals—especially those in same-sex relationships—who may seek to live in a more welcoming environment. An influx of highly skilled workers could boost local innovation and economic growth.

**4. Long-Term Economic Stability.** Legal recognition of same-sex couples' rights provides a more stable and predictable legal environment. This stability can lead to long-term economic benefits as same-sex couples invest in property, businesses, and the local community. They are more likely to

contribute to the local economy through spending and investments when they have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples.

**5. Positive Image and Tourism.** A state that supports same-sex marriage is often viewed as progressive and welcoming, which can enhance its reputation on the national and international stage. This positive image can attract tourists, and individuals looking to relocate to a state that supports diversity and inclusion. As a result, this may boost sectors like tourism, retail, and hospitality.

In short, legalizing same-sex marriage can provide both direct and indirect financial benefits to a state through increased consumer spending, tax revenue, and economic growth from attracting businesses and skilled workers. These financial benefits could help improve the overall economy of North Dakota.

Please advise me of the actions you intend to take with respect to this bill. Thank you for considering my views. I look forward to your response.

Joe Mongeon  
3819 94th St.  
Rolette ND 58366

Dear Chair Klemin and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I strongly urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

I am a North Dakota transplant that moved here for school; I am a transgender army veteran and current senior Electrical Engineering student at UND that is enrolled in the accelerated Masters program. I am also the president of the oSTEM @ UND chapter, a student organization dedicated to promoting and uplifting LGBTQIA+ voices in STEM and increasing professional development opportunities and furthering interests in STEM fields for students.

I speak on behalf of myself, my friends, members of the community that will be directly impacted by this bill, and most importantly the children around me that look up to me as a leadership figure in a world that is so often hostile towards them just for living their own life that happens to fall outside of what society at large labels as "normal".

The core of this bill is anti-American in its sentiment and morally apprehensible in every sense of the word. Going through in favor testimonies, every single one mentions a religious reasoning for overturning the right to same sex marriage, and all for just one particular religion. Christianity may be a major religion in the United States, but it is not the sole religion of the people of this country and to try and assert it as morally superior legally is in direct contrast to the American peoples first amendments rights to freedom of their religion.

Some may claim that due to there being no mention of the right to marriage within the Constitution, then the text of the tenth amendment of the constitution means that this should remain a state-by-state basis for deciding who can and can not marry, yet this presumes that marriage to some extent is a right people of this country hold, and using religious arguments to suppress this right is fallacious at best if not intentional bigotry disguised under "states rights", as the phrase historically tends to be. Furthermore, the tenth amendments specific text is "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people". If one is to argue in favor of the federal government not having the power to control marriage, then one should then more accurately presume the right to be held by the people as opposed to the state's legislative body.

Let it be mentioned that the equal protection clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment clearly states "no state can deny equal protection of the law to any person within its jurisdiction"; if the right of people to be married is to be presumed, then **any** attempt to limit the union of legally consenting adults is in stark contrast to the spirit of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment which was put in place due to states attempts to restrict freedoms of marginalized groups under the guise of "states rights".

Respectfully,

Bailey Turner

Dear Committee Members

I am writing in strong opposition to bill 3013, a concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to redefine marriage as a union exclusively between one man and one woman. This resolution is not only a step backward in the fight for equality, but it also disregards the fundamental principles of personal freedom, constitutional rights, and the separation of church and state.

First and foremost, marriage equality has been the law of the land since the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015). This decision affirmed that the right to marry is a fundamental liberty protected under the Constitution, ensuring that same-sex couples have the same legal rights and recognition as heterosexual couples. HCR 3013 seeks to undermine this ruling and strip away the rights of countless Americans, effectively relegating them to second-class citizenship based solely on whom they love.

Furthermore, this resolution ignores the substantial social, legal, and economic benefits of marriage equality. Denying marriage rights to same-sex couples does not strengthen traditional marriage; rather, it weakens the values of fairness, inclusion, and family stability. Studies have shown that legal recognition of same-sex marriage leads to better mental and physical well-being for LGBTQ+ individuals, strengthens families, and provides security for children being raised by same-sex parents. To advocate for the reversal of these protections is to deny dignity, stability, and equal treatment under the law to a significant portion of our population.

Religious freedom is a cherished right in our country, but it does not include the right to impose religious beliefs on others through law. Many religious institutions and faith traditions support and officiate same-sex marriages. Attempting to codify one particular religious perspective into law directly contradicts the First Amendment's protection against government establishment of religion.

In conclusion, HCR 3013 is a harmful and unnecessary resolution that seeks to erode fundamental rights and does nothing to serve the people of North Dakota. I urge you to reject this measure and instead focus on policies that promote fairness, equality, and the well-being of all citizens. Marriage equality is not just a legal matter—it is a matter of dignity, respect, and the fundamental right to love and be recognized equally under the law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Mongeon, Rolette, ND

As a public health researcher, my main focus has been suicide prevalence and prevention. Currently, North Dakota ranks in the top 5 for most suicides per 100,000 people in the U.S. ([CDC, 2023](#)). Suicide is also highly prevalent in LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, who attempt and complete suicide at much higher rates than the general population ([Trevor Project, 2024](#)). LGBTQIA2S+ individuals are at higher risk for mental health challenges, due to many factors including discrimination ([NLHEC, 2018](#)). Eliminating same-sex couples' right to marry would create a sense of alienation for these individuals, which would increase mental health challenges and suicidality.

It is for these reasons, I ask your committee to give HCR 3013 a "do NOT pass" recommendation and encourage committee members to vote NO on this resolution as well.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chandler Tobeck, MPH

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

As someone with deep ND roots and friends and family members in the LGBTQ+ community, I offer testimony in OPPOSITION of House Concurrent Resolution 3013.

As elected officials, you took an oath to uphold the United States Constitution as well as the ND State Constitution. The 14th Amendment of the US Constitution allows for any consenting adults to marry one another. How does HCR 3013 financially, or in any way, benefit ND? It doesn't help ND constitutes and will likely harm the state and is a waste of taxpayer dollars. There are dangerous and misguided repercussions to LGBTQ+ families that can be avoided by not moving forward with hate and bigotry. There needs to be some deep reflection if "Christians" in ND insist that their marriage is impacted by other marriages and force their beliefs on everyone.

I urge the Committee to REJECT HCR 3013 and focus on governing for the benefit of people of North Dakota.



Everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, should have the right to marry the person they love. Outlawing gay marriage denies LGBTQ+ individuals the same legal rights and recognition that heterosexual couples have, which is a violation of basic principles of equality and human dignity.

North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013) is a harmful attempt to undermine the constitutional rights of same-sex couples and challenge the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges decision. This resolution, which seeks to redefine marriage as a union exclusively between one man and one woman, is not only an attack on the LGBTQ+ community but also a direct violation of the principles of equality, civil rights, and legal precedent.

HCR 3013 fosters discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals and sends a harmful message that their relationships are invalid or inferior. Marriage equality has real-world implications for families, including rights related to healthcare, inheritance, adoption, taxation, and social security benefits.

Attempting to strip away these rights would cause direct harm to thousands of legally married same-sex couples and their families in North Dakota and beyond.

I strongly urge a "Do Not Pass" vote.

Dr. Michelle Edenberg

Fargo ND District 45-01

North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 (HCR 3013) has already done damage to our state's reputation by mere means of it being introduced, and I am firmly in opposition. The mere existence of HCR 3013 makes a clear statement to the LGBTQ community in North Dakota that they are not welcome. In a state where workforce and retention of our young people are problematic, this amplifies further alienation of people that we should be working to include. These individuals are our friends, neighbors, and colleagues who deserve dignified recognition of their relationships.

Many arguments for HCR 3013 are based around an incorrect perception that same sex couples are not able to raise healthy children. To the contrary, the ability of same-sex couples to raise healthy, well-adjusted children is supported by a growing body of research. According to a study by the American Psychological Association, "there is no scientific evidence that parenting effectiveness is related to parental sexual orientation." Studies have consistently shown that children raised by same-sex parents fare just as well as those raised by opposite-sex parents. Factors such as parental involvement, emotional support, and the quality of the parent-child relationship play far more critical roles in a child's development than the sexual orientation of the parents.

A significant percentage of arguments for HCR 3013 are linked to disagreement on religious principles. I would encourage those that feel their religious principles prohibit a same sex marriage to not enter into a same sex marriage themselves and leave judgement of morality to their god(s).

Marriage has implications far beyond child-rearing and religious significance. The ability to make health care decisions for a spouse for example, is implied through marriage.

I strongly suggest a do not pass recommendation for this bill.

Thank you,

William Brandt

Horace, District 27 Resident

Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 10, 2025  
Regarding HCR 3013

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

My name is Patrick Mineer. I submit this testimony in opposition to HCR 3013.

One thing I find so impressive about North Dakota is our ability to both be fiercely independent while also working with and sometimes relying on our neighbors to get through the tough times. This blend of independence and community has led to amazing outcomes for our state.

This resolution supports neither of those two qualities. It doesn't favor independence, as it supports the state telling our citizens how they should live their lives or who they should love. It doesn't favor community, because it dehumanizes a minority, telling them they can't have the same rights as the majority simply because they are different, they are somehow less, they are broken.

Not only is this resolution misaligned to core North Dakota values, but it goes further by damaging our brand across the nation. Rather than being seen as a state that respects everyone and supports our community members, it shows that we only respect people that are like the majority, and that you're not welcome if you're not. This will have a damaging effect on our ability to attract people to our state.

Please recommend a do not pass on HCR 3013.

Patrick Mineer  
Fargo, ND  
[patrickmineer@hotmail.com](mailto:patrickmineer@hotmail.com)  
701-866-2620

## **HCR 3013**

To the senators of the great state of North Dakota:

I implore you to stand boldly for God's righteousness.

Proverbs 14:34 says "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns a people."

Scripture condemns the homosexual lifestyle.

"Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable." -Leviticus 18:22

"If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads."  
-Leviticus 20:13

"Because of this [rebellion against God], God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.

In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error."  
-Romans 1:26-27

"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men"  
-1 Corinthians 6:9

“Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.”

-Jude 1:7

From the beginning of time, as outlined in Genesis 2:24, we see God's instructions to men and women as it relates to the lifelong union between them.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Mark 10:6-9, in the New Testament, declares His original and permanent design for marriage.

“But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

There is no changing what God Himself designed and instituted, and what He had already declared about a matter.

We see that His nature and His Word is immutable and unchanging.

“I am the Lord and I do not change.”

-Malachi 3:6

“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.”

-Psalm 119:8

“The grass wither and the flower fades but the Word of the our God endures forever.”

-Isaiah 40:8

You must choose this day whom you will serve.

Your choice will usher in either blessing or cursing on our land and its people. Reject fear. Choose life.

Please vote YES on HCB 3013.

Sincerely,

Paris King - District 26, Watford City, McKenzie County

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee

I Urge you DO NOT PASS HCR 3013.

We are North Dakota residents that have been Married for 11 Years. My husband is also a Veteran who fought for our country. We Originally came from different states and have made this our home for the past 15 years. We got married in Moorehead MN back in 2014 and we live in Bismarck. We are both in the construction field and have made many supportive friends. We have not had any bad experiences with people here but this is Not North Dakota Nice. We are just living our lives and would like the same Rights and Freedoms as Traditional Marriage.

There are thousands of family's that have been great parents whether They are Gay, Straight, or they are a single parent who has lost their spouse, single parents who have been in a divorce, or just single parents in general that had to have kids thru adoptions or surrogacy. No couple needs to procreate to be married. No couple needs their marriage to be recognized by someone else's church. The choice to marry or divorce, to have kids whether natural or adopted or to not have kids at all is a right to everyone who makes these choices. It should not be up to the court system to bring in religion to justify hateful laws to govern how they feel these families should live Their lives.

Love should be a right of everybody. The LGBTQ+ community is a minority in this state and we need you to do the right thing to use your voice to protect us and our rights!

This Bill is trying to take away my ability to be with the person I love and Married to be by his side in his darkest hour. This Bill will only make the hateful anti LGBTQ+ rhetoric even more powerful.

Please do not take away our rights that we have fought for and deserve. Destroying Marriages should not be on the list of things that need to be done.

Again I am asking that you DO NOT PASS HCR 3013

Thank you for your time,  
V/R

Timothy Batchelder  
Jededia Batchelder  
Bismarck, ND

This proposed resolution sends an unfortunate message that that North Dakota, given the opportunity, would not honor marriage equality that was established in the United States based on the existing ruling in Obergefell V. Hodges (2015). I know proud North Dakota couples whose marriage status would not fit the prescribed type of unions that would be recognized if the United States Supreme Court overturn this case. They have chosen to make North Dakota their home and to raise families in our state. By voting in support of this resolution, I believe ND legislators are misrepresenting their constituents who trust them to advocate for their rights. In addition to the infringed upon rights that might occur by such an overturn, this resolution also has the potential to directly impact the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ residents. There are studies that have tied mental health and wellbeing to perceived acceptance and support of members of these communities. In totality, I am concerned that this resolution, should it move forward and incite action by the United States Supreme Court, will cause direct harm to North Dakotans. Despite populist calls for such actions, many states have made considerable progress in advancing civil rights. I worry that North Dakota will take a step backward by passing this resolution; it would send a message that not all individuals are welcome or appreciated in our state. That is not the "North Dakota Nice" that I have come to know as a North Dakotan.

I hope that members of the Senate will consider this resolution and the implications it carries thoughtfully. I would further encourage legislators and committee members who are on the fence with their vote to reflect on the comments shared by House members who admitted they would have voted another way, given more opportunity to reflect on the resolution. I appreciate their willingness to acknowledge this change of stance publicly when others might not have risked the political capital to do so.



Rebecca Needham  
245 5th Ave W  
Dickinson, ND 58601

March 10, 2025

To: House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Rebecca Needham, and as a resident of the state of North Dakota I urge that you Do Not Pass HCR 3013.

You, members of the Judiciary Committee, must not know, have, or acknowledge any LGBTQ+ people in your life. Otherwise, why would you support anything to make a member of the LGBTQ+ community feel as if they were less of a human than you consider yourself to be? What gives you the right to dismiss THEIR own feelings and love for another person? If a person loves someone and they have someone who loves them in return, regardless of sexual orientation, and they both want to commit their lives to each other in marriage, why do you as a politician get to discredit that love and commitment? Why do you consider any same-sex marriage not worthy of the same rights as a heterosexual couple? Such as: jointly filing taxes, inheritance rights or being able to make important medical decisions for their partners.

Please, I urge you to Do Not Pass HCR 3013.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Needham

This testimonial is written in opposition to house bill HCR3013. This is regarding the state urging the Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage equality as being between one male and one female. I am writing as a personal friend to multiple individuals who would be negatively effected by the processing of this bill, and current healthy and thriving family units would be dismantled. This would result in an increase in individuals needing services for extreme mental distress, as well as children going from a healthy two-parent home to a one-parent home and custody issues. The first couple I know to be affected by this bill are two women who have been happily married and active participants in our community. They have raised three children and recently completed all necessary steps to officially adopt their final child who was born through the incredible technology of IVF. The second couple I know are in the process of planning their wedding ceremony, and have fought many odds to make their relationship a possibility. Their marriage does not hinder or poorly affect anyone in our community, and does nothing but provide joy and promote acceptance. As a born and raised resident, Our state has upheld a reputation on being "North Dakota nice" for my entire life. The introduction of this bill causes me great fear that we are headed in a direction that tarnishes that reputation, and only leads to division and hatred. I urge the senate to oppose this bill in order to uphold a virtuous state that is known for it's acceptance and love of all people.

2025-02-17 Speech to the North Dakota House Judiciary Committee

**Honorable Members of the North Dakota House Judiciary Committee,**

My name is Arthur Schaper, and I am the Field Director for MassResistance, the international pro-family group that makes the difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on a matter of great constitutional, moral, and social significance—the 2015 Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* and its impact on our nation.

Let us begin with the constitutional issue at hand. Nowhere in the United States Constitution is marriage defined or regulated. The Tenth Amendment clearly states that powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved for the states and the people. The Supreme Court's ruling in *Obergefell* overstepped these boundaries, stripping states of their right to determine marriage laws for themselves. Worse still, it ignored the natural rights of citizens and transformed liberty into a privilege granted by the government, rather than an inalienable right given by God.

One of the fundamental arguments regarding same-sex “marriage” is that it is a right. The truth is that no one has a right to marry anyone. I must ask a woman for her hand in marriage, and she has the right to refuse. Furthermore, opponents of this resolution will claim that preventing two people of the same sex from marrying is a form of invidious discrimination, like the racial segregation laws of the Jim Crow South. Nothing could be further from the truth. Individuals are born black, Hispanic, white, or of a certain ethnic background. However, there is no evidence that individuals are born homosexual.

In fact, the normalization of same-sex relationships has brought serious public health concerns. The CDC has documented disproportionately high rates of STDs, HIV, and mental health struggles among men who have sex with men. These issues are not the result of so-called discrimination but rather stem from the inherent risks of homosexual behavior. Despite efforts to frame these concerns as mere social stigma, the medical data tells a different story.

This decision was not only legally flawed but ethically compromised. Two justices who ruled in favor of *Obergefell*—Justice Kagan and Justice Ginsburg—had previously officiated same-sex weddings. Their failure to recuse themselves raises serious concerns about judicial bias. Had they done so, the ruling would have likely gone 4-3 against same-sex marriage, leaving the matter to the democratic process where it belongs.

Beyond constitutional concerns, the societal consequences of redefining marriage have been severe. Marriage has always been recognized—both in common law and natural law—as a covenant between one man and one woman. This structure is not arbitrary; it is foundational to the well-being of children, who deserve the irreplaceable guidance of both a mother and a

father. When marriage is redefined, fatherhood and motherhood are deemed optional, and it is children who suffer.

In the wake of *Obergefell*, we have also seen an alarming erosion of religious liberty and free speech. Business owners such as bakers, florists, and photographers have faced devastating fines and lawsuits simply for refusing to participate in same-sex weddings. Public officials like Kim Davis of Kentucky have been jailed for following their conscience. This is not the “live and let live” society we were promised. Instead, it is a tyranny that demands total submission to a new moral order—one that punishes dissent and erases foundational American freedoms.

This decision has also paved the way for further social upheaval. If sex is irrelevant in marriage, why should it be relevant anywhere else? Today, we see the consequences: biological men claiming women’s identities, infiltrating female spaces, and even competing in women’s sports. We were told that same-sex marriage would not affect anyone else. That was a lie. The consequences are everywhere—from our classrooms to our courtrooms, from our businesses to our bathrooms.

Some may argue that this is a settled matter, that we have more pressing concerns. But if we allow the foundation of marriage and family to erode, then every other policy—economic, legal, and cultural—rests on shifting sand. Strong families are the backbone of a strong nation. We cannot put America First while putting American children second.

Finally, let us address a common claim: “Love is love.” If that is true, should adults be allowed to marry children? Should polygamy be legalized? Throughout history, societies have recognized that love alone is not the basis for marriage. Marriage exists not merely for personal fulfillment, but for the greater good of society, particularly for the well-being of children.

Members of this committee, today you have the opportunity to stand for truth, for natural law, and for the Constitution. *Obergefell* was a mistake. It is time for the states to reclaim their rightful authority, to protect religious liberty, and to restore the natural order of marriage.

Please support HCR 3013.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Arthur Schaper  
Field Director  
MassResistance  
Email: [arthur@massresistance.org](mailto:arthur@massresistance.org)  
Cell: (781) 474-3005

The proposed resolution in North Dakota that opposes same-sex marriage is an blatantly disrespectful and is a huge step backward in the state's progress towards equality and justice. This resolution fails to reflect the values of fairness, inclusion, and respect for the rights of all individuals. It is shameful to live in a state that is even considering this as a law and would devastate many people that I love and care about. There are several key reasons why this resolution should be opposed.

1. Violation of equal rights. The proposed resolution directly undermines the fundamental principle of equality, which is highlighted in both the U.S. constitution as well as North Dakota's commitment to justice and fairness. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry discriminates against them based on their sexual orientation. This discrimination sends a harmful message to North Dakotans and others in the country that their love and/or relationships are viewed as less valuable or legitimate than others. Every person, regardless of who they love, deserves the same legal recognition and protections under the law.
2. Legal Precedent and Supreme Court Rulings. The U.S. Supreme Court landmark decision in "Obergefell v.Hodges" (2015) affirmed that same-sex couples have the constitutional right to marry. This ruling ensured that marriage equality is the law of the land, protecting the rights of millions of same-sex couples across the country. Any resolution that seeks to oppose same-sex marriage is in direct conflict with the Supreme Court's decisions.
3. Impact on LGBTQ+ individuals. This proposed law sends a message that their relationships are less than and not valid. Living somewhere that doesn't value who you are can have extensive damaging effects on mental health, community cohesion, and overall well-being. A state maintaining a stance against same-sex marriage would perpetuates inequality and hinders progress for the LGBTQ+ community.
4. State Resources Should Support All Individuals and Families. The state's resources and protections should be focused on supporting all families, not discriminating against certain types. Same-sex couples, much like heterosexual couples, should have every right to build families, raise children, and contribute to their society. These couples will persist regardless of the law, because they existed before the Supreme Court ruling in 2015, however, this resolution risks depriving these families of important legal protections such as inheritance, health care, tax benefits, and spousal privileges. These couples' tax dollars should go to resources that they can access and use for support, and should not be used against them. I do not want my tax dollars to be used against love, regardless of the type of love.
5. Setting Back Social Progress. North Dakota, much like a lot of the country, has made significant strides in advancing civil rights and human dignity. Supporting a resolution that opposes same-sex marriage represents a dangerous reversal of progress. North Dakota would be seen as out of touch with their values of fairness, equality, and respect.

The state would face negative attention, and negative economic impacts as companies, residents, college students, and tourists increasingly prioritize social justice and inclusivity.

Please, do not pass or support the resolution that fails to protect the rights of marriage for all in the state of North Dakota. This proposed law goes against the U.S. Supreme Court decision, but also against the principles and values of equality, justice, and fairness. I hope that North Dakota can continue in its progress towards inclusion, and that this resolution is rejected in favor of a more just, compassionate future for all.

Good afternoon chairman Klemin and members of the judiciary committee,

I am writing to you all today to urge you not to pass HCR 3013.

As a mother of two young boys, I want them to grow up in a world of love and acceptance. Passing this resolution not only violates North Dakota citizen's fundamental rights but sends a message that some love is less valid. That's not the lesson I want for my children.

Marriage is about commitment and choice. Denying that to same-sex couples is un-American and fuels stigma, contributing to higher rates of depression and isolation in LGBTQ+ communities. Policies rooted in fear, not love, divide us.

I want my boys to see a North Dakota that lifts people up, not tears them down. Love is love, and everyone deserves happiness and belonging. Being a good parent and a good human means teaching acceptance. By not passing this resolution, you can do just that.

Thank you for your time,

-Joelle Schmuck

Kristin Nelson

3/10/25

5409 20<sup>th</sup> Street South

Fargo, ND

District 46

**DO NOT PASS HCR 3013**

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to you today to encourage a **DO NOT PASS** on **HCR 3013**. This resolution should **never** have been brought forward. The sponsor and those who voted yes in the house seek to **dehumanize** an entire subset of people that **live, work, and pay taxes** in North Dakota. **Marriage equality** is the **law of the land**, and North Dakota should not seek to take the rights of our citizens away. A queer person's marriage **does not harm** the sponsor or those that voted yes in the house, so I am still trying to understand why so many supported this resolution if not out of **hate for queer folks**.

**DO NOT PASS HRC 3013** and then stand to kill this bill. Show queer people of North Dakota that their **marriages are valid**, and they are **valued** as residents of our state.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristin Nelson (she/her)



This resolution is nested firmly in ignorance and in hate. There needs to be more compassion and empathy in our community, and we need to separate personal feelings of disgust from objective morality. Just because you don't like or don't understand something, it doesn't mean that it's wrong. Let consenting adults marry whomever they wish.

Hello,

My name is Jessica Kulzer and I'm a resident of Fargo, North Dakota. I was born in Jamestown and raised in Bismarck. I've only known North Dakota as my home. A few weeks ago I sent a thank you letter to the 40 representatives who are making a positive difference in the state I love. After reading countless comments on social media about our state going backwards with HCR 3013 and close friends and family saying they no longer wanting to live in North Dakota, I felt it was necessary to ***find the good***.

In July I'll be married for 10 years to my wife, Amber, who is from Rutland, ND, and we have two beautiful daughters. I am a Director of Human Resources for a billion-dollar construction company based in Fargo, and my wife owns her own business as a hair stylist where for over 20 years she has made people feel good about themselves, heard and cared for. We go to church most every Sunday in Horace, ND at Horace Lutheran where we are greeted with love and kindness. Our kids attend Fargo Public Schools where they are receiving the best education and show up every day excited to begin a new day. Our lives aren't much different than yours- we run to sports/activities, we sit at the dinner table together, we read prayers before bedtime and we teach our kids to be kind to others.

Our life right now is simple; We teach our children to love their classmates, for you don't know what kind of night they had. We teach our children to respect their teachers, for you don't know what kind battles they're fighting. We teach our children to pay it forward, because we have so many good things happening in our life, let's never take it for granted. We teach our children to make this world a better place, because it's their future they're fighting for. We teach our children to stand up to bullies, because everyone deserves a chance and someone standing in their corner.

How do we tell our daughters that HCR 3013 is something that could divide their moms and family completely apart? We have spent everyday teaching kindness and compassion, all we ask is for the same thing in return.

We make a positive impact in North Dakota. We give back whenever and wherever we can. **We are a family.** Please think about our children and their future when you consider HCR 3013.

With much love,

The Kulzers

-Jessica, Amber, Jossy and Jaylen



**HCR 3013**

*A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman*

**In Opposition**

I oppose this bill in the strongest possible terms. As a Lutheran pastor here in Minot, I have multiple couples in my congregation who have been directly hurt by this bill even making it this far in the legislative process, and it needs to be stopped. It tells members of our community, and people who care about them, that North Dakota does not respect them and doesn't want them here, based on something that is none of their business. This hurts our community, our economy, and teaches our kids that bigotry and hatred based on being different, are good and acceptable qualities.

This bill is not "North Dakota nice" and will make recruiting people to move here even more challenging, hurting our already stretched workforce, and limiting our economy. As a pastor, I have already had multiple conversations with members of my congregation who are sincerely hurt and feeling like they, and their loved ones, are unwanted in the place they grew up and lived their whole lives. This is unacceptable. Please stand up for what is right and decent and oppose this misguided bill.

Rev. Ellery Dykeman

Minot, North Dakota

As a North Dakota resident and parent to three amazing children, I hope that ND can show that we are a state that accepts all people. Legislating marriage is allowing government overreach in dictates private relationships, which should not be governed by the state out other government bodies.

Jonna Reule

I am writing to convey my opinion and thoughts in opposition to HCR 3013. I am writing to you as a supporter of my fellow North Dakotans who are currently and someday hope to enjoy the beautiful union of marriage. I see this union as something sacred and beautiful for all to have access to. This bill asks to strip away rights that have already been determined and should be upheld. The resolution language itself talks about infringement on religious rights and attempts to point out that marriage was defined as being between one man and one woman for 1,000 years. However I would like to point out that for at least 1,000 years women were also treated as property in many parts of the world. Does this mean we should not have been given the rights we now have today? No. We, as a civilized society should be working towards equality for all of our citizens. A marriage is a legal contract between 2 consenting adults. Our government requires us to have a marriage license to complete a legally recognized marriage. This means no one religious standpoint or view should be allowed to govern someone who is seeking a legal contract and doesn't subscribe to said particular religion. Religion is to be separated from state. Our government has a duty to represent all citizens. What HCR 3013 is asking for does not represent all citizens and it most definitely doesn't speak for all voters in ND. I implore you to vote no on this!

Monday, March 10,2025

Senate Judiciary  
Chair and Committee Members

HRC 3013: OPPOSE

I, Della Kopp, reside in rural Mandan where I have lived my entire life. I am also a property owner in Morton County.

HRC 3013 is shameful, disrespectful, and awful.

HRC 3013 will gravely disrupt people who have contributed to communities across North Dakota and built their lives here. The only reason for this bill is some people think others don't fit into the "norm". How awful it is for a person or people to believe anyone is better or more deserving than someone else or think they know what is best for everyone.

HRC 3013 should not have even been considered.

I urge you DO NOT PASS HRC 3013!

Sincerely,  
Della Kopp  
Mandan, ND

Senators of the 69th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

We urge you to vote **NO on HCR 3013** and end this discriminatory, small-minded, misguided, unpopular attempt to undermine the constitutional right to marriage equality. This kind of legislation hurts members of our community and dissuades folks from moving to North Dakota or remaining here.

We would love to see our tax dollars spent on change that benefits, protects, and supports our citizens, not spent telling people who they can love. Please get the government out of our personal lives, our love, our bodies, and our rights. And finally, love your neighbor.

Reid Segal and Matthew Leake  
Fargo, ND



Hello members of the ND Legislature...

I am writing you to make sure that my voice and others in North Dakota with a similar conviction regarding HCR 3013.

Almost five years ago there was a debate in Minot about the raising of a Pride flag at our City Hall, there were many people who spoke at the first city council meeting. Almost every word spoken at that city council was filled with unfounded opinions, hate, and based on fears of unfounded rhetoric. After this first meeting recording circulated, I posted something on social media about my disappointment, to which my youngest daughter called me immediately to ask what had happened. By the end of that conversation, we had a plan for both her and me to attend the next council meeting to speak against what was witnessed by members of the community. Both of us spoke that evening and I couldn't have been prouder of my gay daughter who very thoughtfully addressed council and a group of people.

My daughter left her hometown to attend college at UMN and she could not wait to leave behind the narrow mindedness of many people in the town where she grew up. She also knew, not only Minot but the state of North Dakota, was a place she could never truly be accepted fully as her true self. This truth makes me very sad, but I understood all of those choices and hoped we had come further in the past 5 years or the past decade since the passing of Marriage Equality in the United States.

But then resolution NCR 3013 was introduced in our state legislature this session. I am writing in strong opposition to this resolution because this resolution brings nothing good to our state. While a resolution doesn't change the law in North Dakota or federally, it shows support to people in our nation and federal leaders that not ALL of our citizens are equal or welcome. Passing this resolution shows evidence that some of our leadership is ok with rights being lost, benefits to partners being removed, and people's marriages being dissolved legally if Obergefell v. Hodges was overturned.

Our state has always prided ourselves on being welcoming to strangers, kind, and respectful of others; this resolution says completely the opposite of that. Why would we want to signal to the entire country that we don't welcome a certain group of people? Why do we want to take away rights from our North Dakota residents?

While I understand many of our legislators talk about protecting the ND constitution as their reasoning for bringing forth this resolution and also approving it. Maybe the legislators should be looking to amend the ND Constitution Measure 1, defining marriage between a man and a woman. This wasn't even a resolution until 2004, and the Supreme Court ruling occurred in 2015. We have already waited a decade, now would be the best time to really listen to the constituents of our state and move forward with love and acceptance for EVERYONE in our state, and the country, giving them RIGHT to marry whomever they love.

Respectfully

Sabrina Herrman

Carter Gill – cartergill130@icloud.com

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee: My name is Carter Gill, and I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HCR 3013.

As members of the *Judiciary* committee, it should be of no question that you all understand the structure of both the North Dakota and United States judicial system. This is not your decision as legislators to make, nor is it the will of the people of North Dakota that this decision be overturned. *Obergefell v. Hodges* has been the precedent for marriage equality in the United States since 2015. For almost a decade, this Supreme Court ruling has allowed for same-sex couples to have the same rights as heterosexual marriages. It is morally bankrupt and inhumane to ask the Supreme Court to strip these couples, many of whom live in North Dakota, of what they have been only recently afforded.

This bill is not popular in North Dakota. House Representatives who thought they would be able to give HCR 3013 a yes vote and not face their constituents for such a heartless vote against their neighbors and constituents have since voiced their regret for a yes vote. It is one thing to give this a yes vote; but to vote yes and then apologize to their constituents is somehow even worse. As legislators, it is your job and responsibility to reflect the will of your constituents and act in their best interests – not yours. Are there not bigger problems in North Dakota than gay and lesbian couples being happy in their marriages?

Those testifying in support will pontificate bible verses and quote “the natural order” in their opposition of gay marriage and *Obergefell*, but if we are to pick and choose bible verses to justify what can only be described as hate, how can that fulfill the teachings of Jesus Christ? Or is this hate founded on the weaponization of out-of-context scripture and the hateful rhetoric of politicians to justify hate towards a minority of people who just want to be left well enough alone by government?

All but one of you on this committee are part of the North Dakota Republican Party, whose platform supports individual liberty and limited government. Would this bill not increase the power of government to determine what is and is not marriage? Is this not an infringement on individual liberty? Or, is the very idea of being equal to a gay or lesbian

couple so horrifying to you that you think it necessary to abuse the power of government to target a minority in this state that you still represent?

These points considered, I urge you to follow your oath to North Dakotans and give this bill a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

Good afternoon Senate Body,

My name is Alida Arnegard. I reside in District 26. I am a mother of 7, a grandmother, and an educator. I love this beautiful land of rolling prairies, coneflowers, Lapiz Lazulis and beautiful people. I am here today to ask you to render a solid yes vote on HCR 3013, the marriage resolution.

The House passed this resolution and in so doing, they showed outstanding support.

Now it is your turn to choose to pass this resolution or sadly to look away & vote against it.

The Bible, Gods timeless word, has already spoken to us on THE definition of marriage and that definition hasnt changed!

The tenth amendment of our constitution also speaks to this issue regarding the definition of marriage & states:

The powers (to define an institution!!) not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the STATES respectively, or to the people.

136 years ago, North Dakota put the definition of marriage into their century code. (See Representative Tveits testimony. He sponsored this marriage resolution.)

When I called & asked Representative Tveit what would happen to same sex couples if this resolution passed today, do you know what his answer was? He said that absolutely nothing would happen!

This resolution seeks to send a signed letter to the Supreme Court urging them to revisit their decision regarding the definition of marriage based on our desire to uphold the 10th Amendment. We know that the definition of marriage is not specifically addressed in our Constitution therefore it (those powers to do so!!) should be reserved to the STATES!

WHEN & IF the Supreme Court revisits the decision made back in 2015 & it is actually given back to the State and individual, what a day that would be!

Do you, Honorable Senator, resonate with the facts presented here? Was the definition for marriage decided in a manner that did not involve the vote of individual states nor did it take into account the vote of individuals?

Obergefell v Hodges has been deemed by this very House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 3013 to be an ILLEGITIMATE OVERREACH.

Is it possible that as a result of an unconstitutional decision based on the influence of two biased individuals, we allowed our Supreme Court to define marriage for us against our own constitutional rights?

SHOULD WE URGE the Supreme Court to OVERTURN THEIR DECISION & leave unaddressed the natural definition of marriage and RESTORE the issue of the definition of marriage BACK to the STATES & TO THE PEOPLE?

Thank you for taking the time to consider this & for allowing me to share my heart on this urgent matter for our State and for our future generations.

Sincerely,

Alida Arnegard



I am a North Dakota citizen and I absolutely do not support this resolution. Please do not support HCR 3013.

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge you to vote down HCR 3013 when it comes before this committee.

HCR 3013 is a harmful and unnecessary resolution that serves no legal purpose beyond sending a divisive and hurtful message to LGBTQ+ North Dakotans.

This resolution does not change the law. It is purely symbolic. But symbolism matters. A resolution like this sends a clear message that LGBTQ+ people, including married same-sex couples, are unwelcome in North Dakota. Same-sex marriage has been legal in the U.S. since 2015, and there has been no evidence that marriage equality has harmed religious freedom or society as a whole. At best, HCR 3013 is a waste of time. At worst, it encourages discrimination and attempts to undermine the legal rights of same-sex couples.

HCR 3013 wrongly claims that same-sex marriage is a “special privilege” rather than an equal right. This is legally and morally incorrect.

- The Supreme Court’s ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) affirmed that marriage is a fundamental right under the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause.
- The government did not create a special privilege. It ensured that same-sex couples had the same legal rights and protections as opposite-sex couples.
- Allowing equal access to an existing right is not granting special treatment. It simply ensures that LGBTQ+ individuals have the same legal recognition, benefits, and protections as anyone else.

If marriage were a special privilege, then any couple receiving state recognition of their union would be receiving preferential treatment, which is simply not how fundamental rights work.

This resolution misrepresents marriage equality as an extra benefit rather than the removal of an unjust legal barrier. That misrepresentation should not be endorsed by this committee.

HCR 3013 is based on a misguided assumption that LGBTQ+ identities are abnormal or harmful. The people behind this resolution likely believe there is something wrong with being LGBTQ+. Science overwhelmingly disproves this belief.

- The American Psychological Association (APA), the American Medical Association (AMA), and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) all affirm that being LGBTQ+ is a natural variation of human identity—not a disorder, not a choice, and not something that needs to be “corrected” or “opposed.”
- Every major medical and psychological organization has denounced efforts to pathologize LGBTQ+ identities, including “conversion therapy,” because these efforts are based on pseudoscience, not reality.

- Studies from organizations like The Trevor Project show that LGBTQ+ individuals thrive when accepted and supported, and that discrimination, like the kind HCR 3013 fuels, directly contributes to higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide.

This resolution isn't about religious freedom or legal rights. It's about singling out a group of people and treating them as lesser.

HCR 3013 does not protect anyone. Instead, it fosters division, emboldens discrimination, and makes North Dakota less welcoming to LGBTQ+ individuals, families, workers, and businesses that value equality. This is not what our state needs. We need policies that bring people together, not drive them apart.

Several legislators who originally voted yes on HCR 3013 have since publicly regretted their votes, including:

- **Matt Ruby** (Minot)
- **Scott Louser** (Minot)
- **Brandy Pyle** (Casselton)
- **Jim Jonas** (West Fargo)
- **Donald Longmuir** (Stanley)

Rep. Matthew Ruby has even vowed to testify against the resolution in this Senate hearing.

When even those who originally supported the resolution begin to recognize its harmful and unnecessary nature, that should be a clear signal that the Senate should not advance this bill any further.

Supporters of HCR 3013 often argue that same-sex marriage threatens religious freedom, but in reality, overturning *Obergefell v. Hodges* would itself violate the First Amendment rights of churches and religious groups that choose to perform same-sex marriages.

- Many faith communities fully support and perform same-sex marriages as part of their religious beliefs.
- The First Amendment guarantees religious freedom for all, including those who believe that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry in the eyes of their faith.
- Overturning the ruling could force government intervention into religious practices, restricting the ability of affirming churches to perform marriages they recognize as sacred.

Religious freedom does not mean imposing one group's beliefs onto others. It means allowing all religious groups the freedom to worship as they choose, including those that support same-sex marriage.



I urge this committee to reject HCR 3013 and focus on real issues that matter to North Dakotans. This resolution does nothing to improve the lives of citizens and only serves to target a group of people who want nothing more than to live their lives freely and equally under the law.

Let common sense prevail. Show the state what “North Dakota nice” really is. Please vote out HCR 3013 and ensure that North Dakota remains a state that values fairness, dignity, and respect for all its citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brook Jenks

District 40

March 10, 2025

Dear Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ron Hildahl, and I am an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, and I am a gay man. I have lived in North Dakota for 24 years and I enjoy working and living here. Yet my love for this state, this place I call home, gets challenged when resolutions such as HCR 3013 and other hurtful legislation is brought forth.

For a point of reference, thirty-nine countries have legalized same-sex marriage. In those countries and in the United States, the definition of marriage between a man and a woman has not been rejected or diminished. By legalizing same-sex marriage, the definition of marriage has been expanded to include same-sex couples.

Chapter 14-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is entitled "Marriage Contract." It states that marriage is a civil contract between consenting parties. For those individuals who have a strong religious conviction to be married in a church and to hold strongly to the belief that marriage is only between a male and a female, that's fine. Yet on the list in the North Dakota Century Code of those who can solemnize marriage, ordained ministers and clergy are number four on the list. The reality is that not all couples are people of faith or want a religious ceremony yet there are so many arguments pointing to the biblical definition of marriage. As a person of faith, and as a person who can officiate a marriage ceremony, I'm thankful that the United Church of Christ, along with at least thirteen other faith traditions, recognizes, affirms, and endorses same-sex marriage.

If there are people who truly believe that marriage is a sacred institution between one man and one woman, guess what?, it still is. And for those who believe that marriage is a sacred institution expanded to include same-sex couples, the dignity and legality of an opposite-sex marriage doesn't change.

For the past eight years I've been in a long-term relationship with my male partner. We are gainfully employed and productive individuals who contribute and give back within our communities. If and when we choose to be married, we would benefit from health insurance coverage and benefits from an employer, inheritance rights, tax benefits, hospital visitation and medical decisions, legal protection, and recognition; as it should be. A same-sex marriage should never be 'less than' or different from an opposite-sex marriage.

Yet even if the United States Supreme Court or other future legislation starts to take away rights and privileges from me and other LGBT individuals, please know that I will still be working hard at my job making a difference in my community and in my state. Please know that my partner and I will continue to live authentically as a same-sex couple. Rulings and laws will not change who I am or negate my relationship, nor will I be forced to live in the shadows of a closet.

Out of respect to the Supreme Court decision and out of respect for countless same-sex couples, I strongly urge that you oppose HCR 3013. Thank you for your consideration.

Rev. Ron Hildahl  
Jamestown, ND

**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**House Concurrent Resolution 3013**

Andrew Alexis Varvel

Written Testimony

March 12, 2025

Madame Chairman Larson  
and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

Regardless of your personal opinion on the issue of marriage, regardless of your personal opinion on *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and regardless of how you actually plan to vote on House Concurrent Resolution 3013, this resolution should be converted from a petition to the United States Supreme Court into an interim legislative study on how North Dakota should update its statutes on marriage.

I think this contentious topic will require far more time and effort than any regular session committee can reasonably do justice.

So, please turn HCR 3013 into a study resolution.

Thank you.



## Support for HCR 3013

Good afternoon. My name is David Pickup, and I am a licensed psychotherapist from Houston, Texas. I represent, and am President of, The Alliance for Therapeutic Choice and Scientific Integrity, a 30-year-old psychological association. The Alliance is in complete support of HCR 3013 for reasons that should be obvious to all people of North Dakota. The following reasons being:

1. The Judeo-Christian historical record of Western Civilization has recognized for millennia the man/woman-only pairing in marriage as the basis for all societies through history.
2. The Supreme Court, primarily per Justice Kennedy's opinion that homosexuality is inborn and can't be changed, has made a deleterious mistake since there is no research anywhere that proves genetic certainty of homosexuality. The court evidently concurred with most major psychological associations that simply made a decision without any profound research that supposedly there is inborn causality.
3. There is strong evidence that has been politically put aside that homosexuality is malleable and can in fact change over time either developmentally or using sound anecdotally proven therapies that respect a client's right to change.
4. Gay marriage has never been about marriage. Everyone in the LGBT community knows there is almost no such thing as sexual fidelity in same-sex marriages, and the actual goal of Obergefell was to codify homosexuality into acceptance within every state of the US and within every society on earth.
5. Given the above, Obergefell, especially now that gay marriage has been in force for many years, has proven to be a mockery of the specialness and civilization founding institution of eons of history.
6. Statistics show that there is a much higher rate of divorce, emotional issues, drug use and dysfunction within the Gay population, which translates easily into the demise of marriage as an institution if not based on heterosexuality.

No one here is saying a person can not be Gay. In fact, within the Alliance, we believe that persons experiencing homosexuality deserve some of society's deepest compassion because of the issues and harassment they face and because of the very difficult issues they have experienced that created these feelings and behaviors in their formative years. However, compassion cannot go so far to deny or repel the truth of marriage and sexual issues lest society at large will eventually decline. The Alliance encourages you to vote yes for this bill, and that you take courage, compassion and truth in support of HCR 3013.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Pickup". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'D' and 'P'.

David Pickup MA, LMFT-S, Doctoral Candidate; President of The Alliance at  
[www.therapeuticchoice.com](http://www.therapeuticchoice.com), [davidpickuplmft@gmail.com](mailto:davidpickuplmft@gmail.com), (346)-739-1144

North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee  
North Dakota Legislative Assembly  
600 E Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505

March 11, 2025

**Re: VOTE NO on HCR 3013**

Dear Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in strong opposition to HCR 3013, “a concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.”

Rep. Foss made a powerful speech on the floor of the House before the unfortunate 52-40 vote. He stated how hurtful such a resolution is to many of our fellow North Dakotans, whose marriage does not fall into this restrictive definition, but who love their partners and their children, want their union to be recognized, and want to have end-of-life privileges to be in the same hospital room with their loved ones when the time comes.

Rather than repeating his moving words, let me provide some statistics that speak for themselves:

Ahead of the House hearing of HCR 3013, there were 30 testimonies IN OPPOSITION, and only 9 IN FAVOR (in reality, 8 because two were submitted by the same person). **That’s three times as much opposition** to this resolution—and three times as much support for the Supreme Court’s approval of same-sex marriage—as to the contrary.

Further, according to a recent poll conducted by the North Dakota News Cooperative and reported in the *Forum* (March 5, 2025), **more than half of polled North Dakotans agree with the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to guarantee same-sex couples the right to marriage**: “Of the respondents, 56% said they sided with the Supreme Court’s decision, while 36% said they agreed with the North Dakota House’s recent resolution asking the Supreme Court to overturn same-sex marriage and define marriage as exclusively being between a man and woman.” More than half of your constituents, in other words, support same-sex marriage.

I urge you, therefore, to uphold your constituents’ opinions whom you were elected to represent, and the majority of whom oppose this resolution, rather than a dozen legislators.

**Vote RED on HCR 3013.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Anastassiya Andrianova,  
Vice Chair of District 11 Dem-NPL  
Fargo, ND

March 11, 2025

I am so disappointed that one of my reps would vote in favor of this VILE resolution. I have said this over and over again, but we have MUCH BIGGER problems in this state than to bring up something that is not even an issue, except for people with certain religious beliefs. Why does anyone care who someone else decides to marry? It doesn't affect them directly and frankly, is none of their business. The argument that only male-female marriages result in children is also untrue. There are so many children who are adopted and cared for by same-sex couples as well as those couples using surrogates. And again, this is no one's business outside of that couple. I will never understand why the ND legislature wastes so much time on these things when we have so many other needs and issues in this state. Not to mention it's an absolute slap in the face to ND residents, like my very good friends, who have a strong and healthy same sex marriage. Are we trying to drive people out or prevent people from moving here? Resolutions like this will do just that.

This is clearly a religious-based resolution. There is no other explanation for it. It should be a NO. Please move on to addressing issues with homelessness, mental health services, disability services, property taxes, etc.

RaNae Jochim

South Bismarck

I am writing in favor of retaining the legal ruling to allow gay marriage. My daughter, who is a highly educated professional, married my daughter-in-law last year. They did so, legally, in hopes to be able to have the same legal rights as any married couple.

God created this child of mine who is perfect in his eyes. She is not a mistake, nor are any of the other gay individuals. They deserve to be treated equally. Discrimination needs to end. If North Dakota is wondering why young people leave this state, this is one reason.

I am a lifelong resident of this state. I am highly disappointed the state continues to revert to "the good old days". We need to be present and be progressive. We need to be advocates for our children so they are able to enjoy the rights any traditionally married couple can.

Please vote in favor of retaining their rights.  
Deb Vivatson

March 10, 2025

In Opposition to HCR3013 – Recommending a **DO NOT PASS** vote

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR3013. As someone who was born and raised here in North Dakota, I have a deep connection to this state, and its values. On my mom's side, I come from a long line of ranchers who settled here decades ago. On my dad's side, my family's journey is one of resilience – my grandparents, my dad, and his siblings chose to make North Dakota their home after escaping the devastation of war-torn Vietnam.

Growing up here, I spent my days running through open prairies, walking along the Missouri River, and stargazing beneath our expansive skies. My pride in this state runs deep, and it is a place I will always consider home. It is deeply troubling to me that my home state is even considering anything like HCR3013, especially when there are far more pressing issues that deserve attention.

Marriage equality does not harm anyone. Who I love, how I live my life, or what I believe should not be anyone else's concern but my own, and the people who are closest to me. It is baffling and honestly quite unsettling that anyone would feel it is their place to judge me based on who I love, especially when they've never met me and probably never will. This is my life, and my choices are mine to make.

While HCR3013 may not have an immediate legal effect, its message will be loud and clear to all those it targets, both inside and outside of North Dakota. It would send the wrong message to the world at large and to the very people we hope to attract to our state. We tout our North Dakota Niceness and invite people to visit and experience our friendly, welcoming communities. How can we expect to foster that spirit of inclusion if we continue to exclude certain groups of people based on something as deeply personal as their love or identity?

It's deeply unfortunate to witness my home state turning its back on so many people over something that affects such a small fraction of the population. A "NO" vote on this resolution would signal unity and a progressive step forward, something I know some may fear, but something that could ultimately make North Dakota a better place for everyone, not just a select few.

Let's be clear – leaving marriage equality as it stands doesn't affect anyone who doesn't wish to engage with the LGBTQ+ community. You don't have to attend Pride, you don't have to support same-sex marriages, and you don't have to interact with us at all. Just



like we don't have to interact with you, your religion, or your life. All we ask is that we are treated with the same kindness, respect, and humanity that everyone deserves. That's all we need – to be seen as people, trying to navigate life the best way we can.

North Dakota is a place of great beauty and great heart, and I ask you to reflect that in the way we treat all people, regardless of who they love or how they identify. Please stand for kindness and respect. Please vote "NO" on HCR3013.

Sincerely,

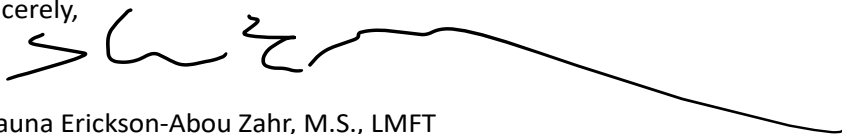
Alyssa Christensen, born and raised gay North Dakotan

Witten Testimony of Shauna M. Erickson-Abou Zahr, M.S., LMFT in Opposition to HCR 3013

Chair Larson and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write today to urge you to vote DO NOT PASS on HCR 3013. As a lifelong North Dakotan, I deeply value equal human rights of all of our residents as do the majority of my neighbors. North Dakota does not prize itself on discrimination, narrow mindedness, and harming of its residents' rights which this passing would do. We must remain in congruence with our North Dakotan Constitution that promotes protections for our residents for individual liberty, including ability to marry as our residents see fit. One form of religion does not get to dictate how our state legislates liberty. In a climate of increasing othering and hate, we must stand for our residents, our constitution, and freedom for all, including protections for same sex couples to marry. Please vote in opposition of this unjust and cruel attempt to limit citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Shauna Erickson-Abou Zahr, M.S., LMFT

**Opposition to HCR 3013****3/11/2025**

Dear Chairman Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

**I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3013**, which urges the United States Supreme Court to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges* and redefine marriage exclusively as a union between one man and one woman.

First and foremost, while some proponents of this resolution cite religious texts, such as the Bible, as justification, the United States is a secular nation. Our Constitution clearly separates church and state, ensuring that religious doctrine does not dictate civil law. No religious institution is required to recognize or perform same-sex marriages, yet many do. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion—not just for those who oppose same-sex marriage, but also for those who support it. The government should not impose a singular religious perspective on all citizens, particularly when marriage is a legal contract that carries significant civil rights and protections.

Additionally, reference was made to Article XI of the North Dakota Constitution from 1889, which declared that “only the union of one man and one woman shall be recognized as a marriage.” However, laws and constitutional provisions evolve to reflect our nation’s growing understanding of rights and justice. In 1889, women could not vote, segregation was legal, and interracial marriage was widely prohibited. Using historical precedent as justification for modern discrimination ignores the progress our society has made in ensuring equal protection under the law. The U.S. Constitution guarantees the pursuit of happiness, and the Fourteenth Amendment explicitly protects individuals from discrimination by the states. It is for this reason that *Obergefell v. Hodges* correctly determined that bans on same-sex marriage violate the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses.

Another argument presented in favor of this resolution is that marriage exists solely for procreation and that only a husband and wife can have children. This claim is factually incorrect. Many heterosexual couples cannot or choose not to have children, yet their marriages are not considered invalid. Likewise, same-sex couples have and raise children through adoption, surrogacy, and other means. To suggest that only certain unions are legitimate based on the ability to biologically reproduce is not only inaccurate but also deeply dismissive of the many families in North Dakota and across the country who do not fit this narrow definition.

Marriage is not simply about reproduction—it is about love, commitment, and legal protections that help families thrive. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry would inflict real harm by stripping away essential rights related to healthcare, inheritance, and parental recognition, among many others.

In conclusion, **I strongly urge you to oppose HCR 3013**. We should not be seeking to strip rights away from law-abiding citizens, nor should we allow outdated or religious arguments to dictate civil law in a country that values freedom, equality, and justice for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kara Geiger  
Mandan

The House Concurrent Resolution No. 3013 should not be supported or passed by North Dakota. Marriage is not reserved for just a male and female. Any two consenting adults should have the right to marry, no matter their sex. Denying them that right discriminates against them, removes their rights as American citizens, and moves our state of North Dakota backwards instead of forwards.

North Dakota is always questioning why younger citizens choose to move out of state instead of buying a house and making North Dakota their home. Resolutions, such as this one, are a big reason for that. Why should someone stay in a state that they don't feel welcome or supported in, or even discriminated against in? Allowing all North Dakota citizen, no matter who they desire to marry, to feel like North Dakota is a safe place to live is the bare minimum to make our state somewhere people want to live. Otherwise, they will move away to somewhere they feel accepted. Taking their skills, their kindness, and their families, to other states instead of staying and creating a stronger North Dakota.

Defining marriage as just between a man and a women, doesn't strengthen the idea of marriage, but instead weakens it. There are so many loving, amazing couples and families in North Dakota that do not fall under this Resolution's idea of marriage. They contribute to their society, work hard at their jobs, better their community, and raise amazing families. The state of North Dakota should not be able to tell them what they are doing is wrong and against the law.

This resolution wants the decision to go back to the States, but the Supreme Court already made a decision with Obergefell v. Hodges. This resolution talks a lot about how things have been done for thousand or hundred of years, however doing things the way they have always been is not always the right answer. Instead of going backwards, North Dakota should be working on moving forward. Moving forward in making our state a great place to live, for everyone who wants to live here.

Please do not pass or support this resolution that fails to protect and support North Dakota citizens. It is time to move forward to a better future for North Dakota and everyone who lives here.

Esteemed Members of the 69th Legislative Assembly,

Our names are Mr. and Mrs. Ethan and Montana Ackman and we are writing to you today in regards to our great concern regarding HCR 3013 and, as such, would like to strongly encourage you to give HCR 3013 a “Do Not Pass” recommendation and to vote in opposition to this bill should it appear on the Senate floor.

We are greatly concerned as this bill seeks to claim that the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) misinterpreted the Constitution in the ruling they made on Obergefell v. Hodges. However, we firmly believe that HCR 3013 directly contradicts with the spirit of the United States Constitution as laid out by the founding fathers and directly contradicts the Declaration of Independence which states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The Supreme Court of the United States of America correctly ruled that the right to marriage is the right of all Americans regardless of their sex and the sex of their intended spouse.

HCR 3013 seeks to deny that right and wrongfully indicates that the SCOTUS’s ruling on Obergefell v Hodges was “not respecting the decision of the founding fathers of our constitution”, when the evidence, as laid out in the Declaration of Independence, as written by our founding fathers, seems to indicate the exact opposite of this sentiment and, as such, it can be reasonably understood that, should they have the context of the world in which we live today, the founding fathers would believe that the right to marry the person of one’s choosing, regardless of the sex of those who wish to be married would be one of the truths that they hold “to be self-evident” as they believed that among those “inalienable rights” were both “Life” and “the pursuit of Happiness.” Both of these truths would be included within the right to marry the person of one’s choosing regardless of their sex and the sex of their intended spouse.

We would like to also draw to this assembly’s attention that the 117th Congress of the United States of America passed H.R. 8404, which is also known as the Respect for Marriage Act which states, as quoted from Congress’ website, “This act provides statutory authority for same-sex and interracial marriages.” As such, the sentiment stated in lines 17 through 19 of HCR 3013 “WHEREAS, the judicial branch of government is authorized to interpret the law but it does not have the authority to legislate from the bench to enact policy decisions, as legislative powers are properly vested in the legislative branch of government; and...” seems to ignore the additional oversight provided by the Congress of the United States of America.

As such, we wanted to make this body aware of the additional Congressional oversight and legislation which sets the precedent for the continued legality of same-sex marriage within the United States of America and thus this legislative body, in passing HCR 3013, would be directly opposing the law of our land as dictated by the 117th Congress of the United States of America as laid out in H.R. 8404

Bearing all of this in mind, we would strongly encourage you to give a "Do Not Pass" recommendation on HCR 3013 and to vote in opposition of this bill should it appear on the Senate floor.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Ackman

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HCR 3013.

My daughter and her wife have been legally married for 16 years.

During that time, they have adopted and raised two wonderful sisters. They know they are loved and they know they are safe. I strongly oppose her 3130. Although my daughter and her wife are a same-sex couple, they are definitely sharing a strong, loving relationship, perhaps stronger than many so-called traditional marriages. These women are both outstanding, community-minded women. Disregarding their long-standing and committed marriage would be a disgrace.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state.

Regards

Fay K Craigo Harteis

I write in opposition to HCR-3013.

Growing up in North Dakota in the 80s and 90s, I found my home state to be so welcoming. People were friendly, polite, helpful, yet kept to themselves. I honestly didn't know who my parents voted for because it wasn't a big deal and not something you needed to talk about.

I moved away for 20 years and came back 3 years ago to a different North Dakota. Now, my home state is full of hate and in-your-face demonstrations of people not being welcome. This resolutions is an example of that hate.

I'm not gay, but I always thought that if I were, I would be welcome in North Dakota. I went to high school with some kids who were gay and I always thought that the people who bullied them were just afraid that they, the bulliers, might actually be gay. Is that what is going on here? The people who are in favor of this resolution are nervous that they might be gay? Why would you try so hard to make people feel so unwelcome?

I won't spend a lot of time trying to convince you about basic human rights. By supporting this bill, it's evident that you don't care.

So I'll try to demonstrate the impact in other ways.

Economically, gay people and those who support them support the North Dakota economy by spending millions a year. If you continue to alienate people who stand for human rights, you are risking the North Dakota economy.

Personally, I have gay friends who visit me each year. They visit me because they love and care for me and believe me when I say that North Dakota is a good place, despite what they hear on the news. If this resolution passes, I can no longer ask my friends, gay or otherwise, to visit North Dakota. I would seriously consider moving, as well. Why would I want to surround myself with people who, so forcefully, want you to know that if you are gay, you are not welcome? You may say that it's just saying gay people can't get married. But why do you care so much about that? Let's make North Dakota great again by instilling some of our values I grew up with: keep to yourself. Don't worry about who loves who if it doesn't affect you.

Danielle Erdmann

Born in Minot, ND

Current resident Fargo, ND



Rose Nichols  
606 Collins Court  
Mandan ND 58554

March 11, 2025

Attn: Senate Judiciary Committee

Please vote no on HCR 3013. This bill attacks the protection of same-sex marriage and encourages a rigid definition of which people should be allowed to join their lives with another person in a marriage.

Consenting adults should have a right to marry a partner of their choosing. There is no reason for our government to allow some adults to marry and restrict others from marriage. This freedom has been reinforced by the removal of laws that prohibited adults from marrying a person of a different color or culture.

Support your constituent's rights by voting no on this harmful bill.

Thank you,

*/s/ Rose Nichols*

Denise Dodd,  
Regarding HCR 3013  
March 11th, 2025.

Hello, my name is Denise Dodd. I am a born and raised North Dakota citizen and resident. I am a participant in my community, volunteering and working in behavioral health and human services.

I am writing in opposition of the House Committee Resolution 3013, which urges the United States Supreme court to restore the previous definition of marriage to a union between one man, and one woman. This definition comes from biblical texts, with references from Matthew 19:5, and Genesis. I respect an individual's right to religious freedoms, and it is one of the things that makes this country wonderful. However, our laws should not be enshrined with religious definitions of what should and should not be. We are a free nation to make our choices, marriage included. If two people consent and vow and sign their certificate with witnesses, the marriage should be recognized.

Marriage is a beautiful thing in all of its forms as we know it to be, with one woman and another, a man and another man. Love is a gift we choose to give to each other, and we should not encourage language to limit how two consenting adults love one another. It harms no one to keep the definition as it is, however it can harm those who find themselves outside of the definition outlined above. No one deserves to be on the outside of a definition based on religious pretext they may or may not participate in.

I grew up with two women who are married to each other, and their dedication to each other and love for us has been a cornerstone of my life as I grow to adulthood and look to possibly share the title of marriage with someone. I have seen men who have married another man share just as much love as one man and one woman in an old folks home as they smile at each other as they reminisce about their lives together.

I have heard love stories from all sides of the definition of marriage and it gives me hope as I move to find a partner for myself, that I can find someone as dedicated and doting as those I've seen around me. In the future, I may be a woman who loves another woman and wishes to marry, or I may be a woman with a man. Either way I deserve to be recognized and accepted. My mothers deserve to be accepted and not excluded by the law. The lesbian couples, the gay couples, they all deserve the same dignity as one man and one woman, as they love each other and share the bond of being couples by law.

I thank you all for your time and consideration. I hope that my plea that I oppose this resolution assists in showing that this is a near and dear topic to the hearts of many constituents and North Dakota citizens.

Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Brooklyn Anderson, and I stand in opposition of Resolution 3013. I am speaking to you today as a North Dakota citizen, a neighbor, and a lesbian. I exist before you as a human being whose right to live my life as the rest of you do has been diminished to nothing more than "governmental entitlement".

There are many people who will not understand the true lived experiences of LGBTQ individuals like myself. I urge you today to drop your defenses for a couple of minutes and consider my opposition. If this resolution is to pass, I must be dealt the consequences of your choices, not you. Please consider that disconnect as you take in my words on this subject.

The text of this resolution relies on a claimed unconstitutionality of the US Supreme Court decision in Obergefell vs. Hodges (2015). However, this decision does not violate the Constitution of this country, nor does it cause any harm to you and me. It is claimed that due process and the 14th Amendment do not include homosexuals and our right to marry, but by definition, I don't see how this is true. The Equal Protection Clause states that the government must have a valid reason to treat similarly-situated individuals differently, meaning individuals who are alike in all relevant ways. I am a human, a Christian, an American, just as you are. You did not believe there was a single thing different about me until I told you I was gay. Even if this fact is not enough, the Equal Protection Clause also states that the government must have rational basis in cases such as with removing substantive rights, as this resolution defines sexual orientation to be. It's the same basis that upholds interracial marriage in Loving vs. Virginia, bans the use of racial quotas for state universities in Regents of the University of California vs. Bakke, that state legislative districts must be comprised of equal populations to protect democracy in Reynolds vs. Sims, and the landmark case that banned racial segregation in schools in Brown vs. the Board of Education, to name just a few. Plenty of decisions you would never consider overturning rely on the same principles as Obergefell vs. Hodges, there is a clear double standard. I see no plausible reason that I should not be able to have the benefits of marriage with a partner, and no plausible reason is stated in the whereas clauses of this legislation on why this is necessary for the safety and the betterment of North Dakota or the United States for that matter.

You say that I still have the right to be in a relationship, and that marriage is but a title, however there are a myriad of things I would never have the ability to do. Only 7% of US adults living with their partner are unmarried. This is clearly not the life most want to live. It's not the life any married person here would like to be living. You are missing your rational basis, and for that reason alone this resolution should not pass. It remains unanswered, so simply, I ask: Why? Why does it mean so much to you to take away my

ability to stand equal to you? Why are you so committed to governmentally oblige that I be less deserving than you of an ability to do something every heterosexual person can do, like marry the person they love more than anything else? When, at the end of the day, it has no impact on you, why do you care so deeply? Consider this question as you cast your vote. It's not saving a single person or making a single thing better to pass this. It does not harm the Constitution or the judicial process of this nation to say no to the wrongful discrimination of our fellow humans.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lesleyanne, and I am a cisgender, straight woman, engaged to be married. I am writing to express my strong opposition to this resolution, which seeks to limit the legal definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

**At its core, marriage is a deeply personal commitment, one that should not be dictated by the government. Matters of the home—of love, family, and partnership—are not the business of the state.** It is a gross overreach for any governing body to attempt to control whom people can love and marry. I firmly believe that all consenting adults deserve the right to build a life with the person of their choosing, free from government interference and outdated restrictions.

**I stand against any effort to strip rights away from my fellow citizens based on personal or religious beliefs that do not reflect the diversity of our nation. The freedom to marry is a fundamental right that should not be revoked or restricted based on gender. Marriage equality has strengthened our communities, our families, and our country as a whole.**

As someone who is preparing for my own marriage, I recognize the profound significance of this commitment. To deny that same opportunity to others based on who they love is not only unjust but also deeply un-American.

I urge you to reject this resolution and instead uphold the principles of **equality, dignity, and freedom** that this country claims to stand for.

Sincerely,

Lesleyanne Buegel

lesleyannebuegel@gmail.com

I am writing today to state that as a resident of North Dakota I oppose HCR 3013.

Marriage is a sacred commitment, and it is not for anyone but the two people who make a commitment to each other to decide who is best suited for them.

North Dakota needs to keep moving forward, not backward. North Dakota also needs to stop being so discriminatory. Our "North Dakota Nice" motto needs to expand to include all people in our state.

Passing this resolution will give the wrong message about North Dakota, will hurt individuals and families and take North Dakota backwards in progress.

Thank you for opposing this resolution.

Christine Kman

**HCR3013**

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of HCR3013. Our country and state were founded on the principles of our ancestors that believed that marriage is between a man and woman. God only made two sexes and has always stated that the two are the one in marriage.

Testimony **IN OPPOSITION** to **HCR 3013**  
Senate Judiciary Public Hearing - March 11, 2025

Cynthia Roholt and Mary Lee Clarens (D45)  
3140 9 ½ St N  
Fargo, ND 58102  
701-566-1143 (CR) 701-866-8738 (MLC)

Respectfully submitted to the North Dakota Senate Judiciary:

In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees same-sex couples the right to marry. This year, North Dakota House approved a resolution urging the Supreme Court to overturn that ruling.

**This resolution affects my wife and I directly.** Although the immediate effects of this resolution are unclear, its intent is to nullify our marriage and render us unequal in the eyes of both North Dakota and US law.

As the 69th North Dakota Legislative Assembly broke for its crossover recess, a poll commissioned by the North Dakota News Cooperative was conducted and found that 56% of North Dakotans agree with the Supreme Court decision and 36% agree with the ND House resolution to encourage the Supreme Court to overturn Obergefell. It appears that North Dakota legislators are clearly out of touch with their constituency.

Sponsored by Rep. Bill Tveit, R-Hazen, HCR 3013 urges the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn its decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, which has protected marriage equality for the last decade. Tveit told lawmakers that marriage had always been between a man and a woman until 10 years ago and said the country would not be able to perpetuate itself without men and women having children.

A 2025 Gallup poll found that 9.3% of all Americans identify as LGBTQ+. Polling reflects this number as 2.7% in North Dakota. If nearly 91% of Americans and 97%+ North Dakotans can't find a way to perpetuate itself, we have a larger problem in the US than same sex marriage.

This concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one woman and one man states that Obergefell vs Hodges conflicts with the constitution (HDR 3013, 2-11):

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, 135 S. Ct. 2584 (2015), conflicts with the United States Constitution and the principles upon which the United States was established; and  
**WHEREAS**, liberty has long been understood as individual freedom from governmental action, not as a right to a particular governmental entitlement; and  
**WHEREAS**, Obergefell v. Hodges invokes a definition of liberty the framers of the United States Constitution would not have recognized, rejecting the idea captured in the Declaration of Independence that human dignity is innate, and instead suggesting it comes from the government

Does marriage between a woman and man not enjoy rights to “*particular government entitlements*”?

If human dignity is innate, how can our legislature suggest that the dignity afforded to heterosexual couples is somehow different than the dignity afforded to same sex couples?

Should marriage equality be overturned, this would certainly be the case.

Guaranteed by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, same-sex couples have the fundamental right to marry on the same terms and conditions as opposite-sex couples, assuring them all the accompanying rights and responsibilities of marriage - not heterosexual vs same-sex marriage - just marriage.

**This resolution is blatantly discriminatory. Our right to marriage is valid and protected by the constitution.**



I'm writing to express my strong opposition to HCR3013. I find that this was even brought up to be completely appalling. What will the ND Legislature decide to go after next session – interracial marriage? Women's voting rights? Despicable!

I was born and raised in the Bismarck area, graduated from Century High School, attended BSC and moved to MN to finish school because ND doesn't offer a bachelor's degree in the field I was pursuing. I ended up staying here after graduation.

I was always taught to treat others the way I would like to be treated and that I was no better than anyone else. I didn't even realize this was an issue until Representatives Tveit, K. Anderson, Morton, S. Olson, Rohr, Henderson, Hoverson, and Senators Clemens, Enget, Lemm, Magrum, Weston threw it into the ring of public consciousness. What must it be like to have so much hate in your heart for people you don't even know to take away something that isn't even affecting you personally?

My mom dated a boy when she was a sophomore in high school for about 6 months, they broke up but stayed friends. The night of her high school graduation from CHS in 1992, he called her and came out to her as homosexual. She was surprised, but it didn't bother her, and she thanked him for trusting her. He said that she was the first person he told, because she was the most open-minded person he knew. She still considers that to be one heck of a compliment and she's in her 50's now. As the years have gone by, she's gained a lot of special friendships with all kinds of people of both sexes and different sexual orientations. None of that matters because they're all good people. She loves them all. My grandparents are in their 70's, they have no issues with the LGBTQ+ community either. Again, treat others the way you'd like to be treated, mind your manners, and mind your own business. I have friends across all walks of life and I'm grateful for the diversity and the ability to see things from the point of view of other people.

Yes, some people choose to get married for religious reasons, some for practical reasons – hopefully all for love as well. But whether or not there's church involved, there's definitely a legal process too. You can have a marriage without the church, but you can't have one without a piece of paper from the state. As far as I'm concerned, the ones that are gay have just as much right to marry the person they love as anyone else does. Straight people are not the only ones that deserve the legal protections that marriage provides.

Same-sex couples give back to our communities just as much as anyone else. They have families, extended families, they are business owners, buy homes, pay taxes, shop, fundraise, volunteer. Why tell them that ND doesn't want them? That's a bad message to send.

In Opposition to HCR 3013, A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman

March 11, 2025

Dear Senators of the Judiciary Committee:

I am a North Dakota resident, a father, an educator. I am heterosexual. I am a Unitarian Universalist, a volunteer at charitable events, a coach, a consumer. In every single one of these contexts, I oppose this concurrent resolution. It is an inappropriate injection of religious belief into law, it is contrary to the goal of marriage as a contract between society and two individuals, and it rejects the humanity of our brothers and sisters, our children, our neighbors.

Marriage is both a legal contract and a religious tradition. This body has zero rights and responsibilities to be involved in religious traditions save to pass legislation ensuring the First Amendment of the United States Constitution is protected. This body definitely has a responsibility to ensure that marriage, as a legal contract, is advantageous to North Dakota citizens individually and as married couples, and to the state as a whole.

In that context, this continuing resolution is farcical. It would catastrophically impede same-sex couples' ability to adopt children, thus leaving the burden to care for these children on the state's foster care system. It will make it much harder for partners in a same-sex relationship to process the affairs of their deceased partner, increasing the burden on probate courts. It will burden our law enforcement officers; instead of being able to release information to their fellow citizen about that person's spouse, they must harden their hearts and deny such information. There is literally not a single way in which defining marriage as between "one man and one woman" is advantageous to the state. Conversely, in almost every way possible, defining marriage thusly is **dis**advantageous to same sex couples.

In other words, this resolution is a solution in search of a problem.

This continuing resolution is inhumane. It explicitly discriminates against some North Dakotans. It makes the lives of our neighbors and friends harder for no societal gain whatsoever.

Finally, this continuing resolution sends this message: North Dakota does not want anyone who is not heterosexual to live here.

Senators, this continuing resolution is bad policy. It represents the worst of human motivations. It is antithetical to American values. It is intrusive. It is harmful. It should not be supported. I implore you to unanimously recommend the Senate DO NOT PASS this resolution.

Joseph Kennedy  
Fargo, ND



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Zachary Ista

District 43  
3850 15th Avenue South  
Grand Forks, ND, 58201-3727  
zmista@ndlegis.gov

## Minority Leader

### COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation

March 12, 2025

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

As a State Representative for District 43 in Grand Forks and the House Minority Leader, I write to oppose HCR 3013 in the strongest possible terms. North Dakota must be a welcoming place for *all* its current and future residents. This resolution offers the opposite message, telling thousands of our neighbors that they are not fully welcome in this state. I urge a strong rejection of this damaging resolution because it ignores the rule of law, disregards a binding United States Supreme Court opinion grounded in the dignity of all Americans, and sends a harmful and gravely wrong message to gay and lesbian North Dakotans.

As an initial problem, HCR 3013's own words call for the Legislative Assembly to ignore the rule of law completely. The resolution proclaims that the "Legislative Assembly rejects the United State Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*."<sup>1</sup> But we, as the Legislative Assembly, have no right, ability, or authority to reject a Supreme Court decision interpreting the federal constitution. The principle of judicial review dates back over 220 years to the landmark *Marbury v. Madison* decision of 1803. Because of it, the Supreme Court is the final arbiter of federal constitutionality. To "reject" the Court's *Obergefell* decision is not something the Legislative Assembly gets to do; the rule of law compels us to abide by it unless and until it is overturned in the normal course of federal litigation. This is true even when we disagree with a Court ruling. Thus, the only thing passing this resolution would reject is the very concept of the rule of law, and I strongly urge the Senate to reject that dangerous approach.

But we also do not need to lean on broader ideals like the rule of law to dismiss this resolution, because *Obergefell* and the concepts of liberty and individual rights enshrined therein should be affirmed on their own merits. However, I suspect most legislators have not taken the time to read Justice Anthony Kennedy's majority opinion in the case. I would encourage everyone to do so. If one is going to vote to "reject" a legal opinion, the least one can do is to read it first.

In *Obergefell*, Justice Kennedy, writing for the Court, starts by describing the underlying facts of the plaintiffs' cases challenging then-existing state laws that denied them marriage equality. James Obergefell, the

---

<sup>1</sup> The HCR also fundamentally misunderstands that federal courts only consider actual cases or controversies, meaning the courts only adjudicate cases wherein a named plaintiff with a cognizable legal harm has brought a lawsuit against a named defendant who might be legally liable for that harm. Our federal courts do not issue advisory opinions in which they offer legal analysis and conclusions on a hypothetical question. Yet HCR 3013 seemingly calls on the Supreme Court to do just that by "urg[ing]" it to overturn the *Obergefell* ruling, apparently hoping that the Court will materialize such a ruling out of thin air notwithstanding there being no active case before it. If the Legislative Assembly wants the Court to reconsider any ruling, an HCR is not the vehicle to do so. Rather, an actual case must be filed in federal court, at which point the Legislative Assembly (or an individual legislator) could file a "friend of the court" amicus curiae brief advocating for overturning binding precedent. But as it stands, the Supreme Court's only appropriate response to HCR 3013 would be to summarily disregard it.

named lead plaintiff, had been in a committed relationship with his partner, John Arthur, for over 20 years. In 2011, Arthur was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), leading to the couple's desire to marry before the disease took Arthur's life. They traveled from their home state of Ohio (where same-sex marriage was illegal) to Maryland (where it was legal) to wed, holding their ceremony inside a medical transport plane parked on a Baltimore airport tarmac because Arthur was too infirmed to relocate elsewhere. Upon Arthur's passing, however, Ohio refused to list Obergefell as the surviving spouse on the death certificate, an indignity Justice Kennedy described as the state requiring the loving couple to "remain strangers even in death." Kennedy went on to describe two other plaintiffs: one a lesbian couple who had adopted three children but could only list one woman on each birth certificate issued in their state and another a gay couple whose marriage was not recognized in the state they lived in to allow one spouse to continue serving his country in the Army Reserve.

Against this factual backdrop, Justice Kennedy eloquently laid out why the United States Constitution protects everyone's fundamental right to marry whomever they choose. "[T]he right to personal choice regarding marriage is inherent in the concept of individual autonomy," he wrote, observing that "decisions concerning marriage are among the most intimate that an individual can make." Grounding his analysis in all individuals' inherent dignity, Kennedy wrote "[t]he nature of marriage is that, through its enduring bond, two persons together can find other freedoms, such as expression, intimacy, and spirituality. This is true for all persons, whatever their sexual orientation. There is dignity in the bond between two men or two women who seek to marry and in their autonomy to make such profound choices." Putting legal analysis into personal terms, Kennedy noted that "[m]arriage responds to the universal fear that a lonely person might call out only to find no one there. It offers the hope of companionship and understanding and assurance that while both still live there will be someone to care for the other." For these reasons, the Court held that "it would disparage [same-sex couples'] choices and diminish their personhood to deny them [the] right [to marry]," particularly because the "cases involve only the rights of two consenting adults whose marriages would pose no risk of harm to themselves or third parties."

In especially moving concluding remarks, Kennedy wrote the following, which ought to guide our Assembly's actions on this resolution:

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.

Justice Kennedy's stirring words—with their focus on dignity—also closely match the reality I personally experience when I think of the gay and lesbian community in my district, city, and state. When I am home in Grand Forks, I shop at LGBT-owned small businesses; I litigate legal cases with and against LGBT attorneys; gay and lesbian law enforcement officers keep my community safe; gay and lesbian teachers educate my children in public school; when I am sick, LGBT doctors and nurses care for me in the emergency room; and when I look out the window of my own home, I see my next-door neighbors, a gay couple whose marriage to each other looks indistinct from my own marriage to my wife. Likewise, when I have the honor of serving here at the Capitol, I have the pleasure of serving alongside LGBT legislators, staff, lobbyists, and state employees—each of whom do their jobs with distinction and many of whom are married to same-sex partners.

This resolution is a shameful attack on these individuals and on all gay and lesbian North Dakotans who simply want to wed whomever they choose. The resolution sends the message that gay and lesbian families are unwanted and unwelcome in our great state. Can you imagine the message it broadcasts to any LGBT family considering relocating to North Dakota? If basic human decency is not enough of a reason to defeat this resolution, perhaps its detrimental impact on our workforce crisis is.

On a final personal note, I had the pleasure of living and working in Washington, D.C., when the Supreme Court issued its *Obergefell* decision in 2015, coincidentally just months after my own wedding. It was a jubilant day in the District, with spontaneous celebrations springing up outside the White House. On my daily commute home from work, I made a point of walking by the White House to experience this joy first-hand. For over a decade now, I have kept on my phone the photo I took that evening as a proud reminder that love wins.



Let that be true in North Dakota, too. Let us affirm the dignity of all North Dakotans. Let us send the message, loud and clear, that North Dakota stands for marriage equality and embraces the powerful mantra that, in fact, love is love. This committee can and should do that by recommending a "do not pass" on HCR 3013, and the Senate should soundly defeat this resolution.

## Opposition to North Dakota Resolution 3013

Presented by Nicole Morrison

Chair Larson and Committee Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, 69th Legislative Assembly.

My name is Nicole Morrison, and I come before you today not only as a North Dakotan, but as a wife, a mother, and a believer in the fundamental values of love, family, and equality. I stand in strong opposition to Resolution 3013, which seeks to delegitimize Obergefell v. Hodges—the ruling that affirmed the right of same-sex couples to marry nationwide.

This resolution is not just a political statement; it is a direct challenge to the dignity and security of families like mine. My wife and I have built a life together rooted in love, commitment, and shared responsibility. We are raising children with the same values that every parent hopes to instill—kindness, integrity, and a belief in the goodness of people. Our marriage is not a political debate. It is the foundation of our family, the home where our children feel safe, and the promise we made to one another to face life's joys and struggles as a united front.

Like any other family, we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. We teach our children to be kind to their neighbors, to dream big, and to contribute to their community. We hold each other up in times of hardship. We are not an abstract concept. We are real. We are here. And the love and commitment we share are no different than that of any other married couple.

For the state of North Dakota to suggest that our marriage—our family—should never have been recognized is deeply painful and unjust. This resolution does not just erase legal protections; it seeks to erase the legitimacy of our love in the eyes of the law. But love is not a privilege afforded to only some. It is a right, a fundamental human experience that should be protected and celebrated, not called into question.

There are countless families in North Dakota just like mine. Families who want nothing more than to live their lives in peace, to be seen and valued, to raise their children in a community where they are treated with dignity. If this resolution moves forward, it sends a message that our marriages—our families—are somehow less worthy, less real, less deserving of the rights and recognition others receive without question. Is that really the side North Dakota wants to be on.

I ask you today: What legacy do we want to leave? Do we want to be a state that lifts up its families, that recognizes love in all its forms, that stands on the side of freedom and equality? Or do we want to be a state that moves backward, denying rights and protections to families who have done nothing but love one another?

I urge you to stand on the side of love, on the side of families, and on the right side of history. Please reject Resolution 3013.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nicole Morrison

The amount of time and money the ND legislature puts into bills that aren't something the ND people want or ask for is simply ridiculous. For a party who claims to want less government and claims to be fiscally responsible, the ND republicans who sponsor and vote for these types of bills should be embarrassed.



3/11/25, 1:36 PM

Port: Republican lawmakers say they regret vote for anti-gay resolution



OPINION COLUMNS

## Port: Republican lawmakers say they regret vote for anti-gay resolution

Republican lawmakers have indicated that they'd vote against the resolution if given another chance, though it's unlikely they'll get one.



State Rep. Scott Louser, a Republican from Minot, is pictured here in a video he posted on Facebook in which he expressed remorse for a vote against an anti-gay resolution in the North Dakota House of Representatives. Screen capture via Facebook

**Opinion by Rob Port**

February 26, 2025 at 5:04 PM

22 Comments

Share

Opinion

MINOT — On Monday, Feb. 24, the North Dakota House of Representatives approved a resolution calling on the U.S. Supreme Court striking down state bans on same-sex



It was an absurd waste of time given that the courts do not respond to these things. It's conceivable that the courts might take up a new case that could prompt them to overturn their own precedent, or that a new amendment to the Constitution could be ratified creating a right to same-sex marriage, but [House Concurrent Resolution 3013](https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/69-2025/regular/bill-overview/bo3013.html?search=3013), introduced by Republican Rep. Bill Tveit, has zero impact on either of those outcomes.

Still, it passed with 52 yes votes. A total of 48 yes votes were needed to approve it.

#### MORE FROM ROB PORT



(<https://www.inforum.com/opinion/columns/port-over-100-attorneys-sign-letter-protesting-north-dakota-state-bar-distancing-itself-from-lgbtq-seminar>)

**Port: Over 100 attorneys sign letter protesting North Dakota state bar distancing itself from LGBTQ seminar**(<https://www.inforum.com/opinion/columns/port-over-100-attorneys-sign-letter-protesting-north-dakota-state-bar-distancing-itself-from-lgbtq-seminar>)



**Port: Maybe don't spike the football on a man's grave**(<https://www.inforum.com/opinion/columns/port-maybe-dont-spike-the-football-on-a-mans-grave>)

(<https://www.inforum.com/opinion/columns/port-maybe-dont-spike-the-football-on-a-mans-grave>)



**Port: House committee shows hostility toward bill improving North Dakota's campaign finance laws**(<https://www.inforum.com/opinion/columns/port-house-committee-shows-hostility-toward-bill-improving-north-dakotas-campaign-finance-laws>)

(<https://www.inforum.com/opinion/columns/port-house-committee-shows-hostility-toward-bill-improving-north-dakotas-campaign-finance-laws>)

finance-  
laws)

Since that vote, multiple Republican House members have indicated that they voted the wrong way.

Rep. Jim Jonas, a Republican from West Fargo, indicated that he simply [made a mistake\(https://www.inforum.com/news/north-dakota/rep-jim-jonas-says-he-did-not-intend-to-support-resolution-against-same-sex-marriage\)](https://www.inforum.com/news/north-dakota/rep-jim-jonas-says-he-did-not-intend-to-support-resolution-against-same-sex-marriage) and pushed the wrong button when he voted. Now Rep. Scott Louser, R-Minot, Rep. Brandy Pyle, R-Casselton, Rep. Matt Ruby, R-Minot, and Rep. Donald Longmuir, R-Stanley, have expressed regret for their votes.

"I've served eight sessions, and it's rare for a moment where you doubt yourself, but it happened to me this time," Louser said [in a video posted on Facebook](#).

[https://www.facebook.com/scottlouser/videos/1800545577434494/?](https://www.facebook.com/scottlouser/videos/1800545577434494/?__cft__[o]=AZU9E7Km_gdXtICr5wHltoH_urtSnVuo29ucUuMnDnw_yZkisyfLodFb_Q79Ghl1nZe75KBGcHjKbY4iEhFS6oWIYbunTmoSgczpXTOWTVtgJJS8uYV5_aKfIXBtXJwpjvfd2HOrgjnidzPto_Dj1Qq6HIIdsoosl4uW9yRZkFCn9A&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R))

[\\_\\_cft\\_\\_\[o\]=AZU9E7Km\\_gdXtICr5wHltoH\\_urtSnVuo29ucUuMnDnw\\_yZkisyfLodFb\\_Q79Ghl1nZe75KBGcHjKbY4iEhFS6oWIYbunTmoSgczpXTOWTVtgJJS8uYV5\\_aKfIXBtXJwpjvfd2HOrgjnidzPto\\_Dj1Qq6HIIdsoosl4uW9yRZkFCn9A&\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=%2CO%2CP-R\)](https://www.facebook.com/scottlouser/videos/1800545577434494/?__cft__[o]=AZU9E7Km_gdXtICr5wHltoH_urtSnVuo29ucUuMnDnw_yZkisyfLodFb_Q79Ghl1nZe75KBGcHjKbY4iEhFS6oWIYbunTmoSgczpXTOWTVtgJJS8uYV5_aKfIXBtXJwpjvfd2HOrgjnidzPto_Dj1Qq6HIIdsoosl4uW9yRZkFCn9A&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R)

"This one I do wish I could have back," he added.

"I regret that this resolution was before us, and it really feels to me like it was only serving as a litmus test as to where people sit" on the issue of same-sex marriage, he continued.

"The Supreme Court has ruled on this. It's the law of the land," he said before urging voters to contact their state senators and urge a defeat of this resolution in the Senate chamber.

I spoke to Louser, who told me that, even though he voted for the resolution, he was impressed by [an impassioned speech delivered by Rep. Austin Foss](#).

(<https://www.inforum.com/opinion/columns/port-the-campaign-to-make-north-dakota-a-bitter-unwelcoming-place>) He said he spoke to Foss about his speech afterward, and spent a lot of time thinking about the vote in the hours since he cast it. "It really started to sink in," he said.

State Rep. Austin Foss addresses same sex...

State Rep. Austin Foss addresses same sex marriage resolution

[Pyle described a similar situation.](#)

(<https://www.facebook.com/brandpyleNDhouseD22/posts/pfbido>

32AF9Abz6G3bmEbSeRqieMJw2KAJT6TSMXCW51CHikQKxtv1A  
TgPWAbupfWzoM4FDI?  
\_\_cft\_\_[o]=AZVZX2JlQP1CLEidnKVj69chZUQCKGKfgNjHN8N7  
F2Q4VtYjB5F2GGhwKOTToYg3qKnoNJGodUiVIaEvtaj\_Q89D-  
ckCZxn6tf7-IiC7ozRx17dsEDndbfP4E1THr9vScAwcY-  
Z\_oUilfT1gXyT8ChiKDHoW-  
xCn\_T4L2bfFuY3agpmJMUAA5zfm\_JeogAwr76Hk&\_\_tn\_\_=%2  
CO%2CP-R)

"I want to take a moment to address something important regarding my vote on Resolution 3013," Pyle wrote in a Facebook post. "When I cast my vote, I had planned to vote 'No,' but as the debates unfolded, I got caught up in the idea that passing it would help move us towards a future where marriage licenses are no longer required and everyone transitions to civil union licenses."



Rep. Brandy Pyle Contributed photo

"The concept is simple: marriage is between you and God, while civil unions are a matter for the government. But after reflecting on

the vote, I realize that making such a significant policy change at the federal level isn't likely to happen anytime soon, and I should have stuck to my initial decision," she continued. "I understand that my vote has sent the wrong message, and for that, I am truly sorry. I regret that this resolution passed, and I know it hurt those who were hoping for a different outcome. I take full responsibility for my vote, and I'll continue to work toward a more thoughtful, inclusive approach in the future."

In his own Facebook post,

([https://www.facebook.com/LongmuirforHouse/posts/pfbidoYz1tcio4XtAeur9ZgTQkCJHoQeEhgs296HZJ6kpnqQALSEhjamHWuiS4uLdLsogBl?\\_\\_cft\\_\\_\[o\]=AZXMRJCESsnqkAzl-RnRge1HFMC5pLdeXM4c4HqviPsFWgVk6D9pPZb3HraqVpis\\_Mij51\\_d2O7PvkixYOI6BQlbMuDFuG\\_abwIIXEqvAJ9lwF3Q5eobwWZQbbkoNaMX\\_uTR4dZlaZTNkBFkwW2DrA9-D-RFpcekpdacquRBF\\_ReIug&\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/LongmuirforHouse/posts/pfbidoYz1tcio4XtAeur9ZgTQkCJHoQeEhgs296HZJ6kpnqQALSEhjamHWuiS4uLdLsogBl?__cft__[o]=AZXMRJCESsnqkAzl-RnRge1HFMC5pLdeXM4c4HqviPsFWgVk6D9pPZb3HraqVpis_Mij51_d2O7PvkixYOI6BQlbMuDFuG_abwIIXEqvAJ9lwF3Q5eobwWZQbbkoNaMX_uTR4dZlaZTNkBFkwW2DrA9-D-RFpcekpdacquRBF_ReIug&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R)) Longmuir

asked for forgiveness for his vote. "I need to acknowledge a mistake I made in voting in favor of HCR3013," he wrote. "HCR3013 is a bill that creates division rather than unity. As Connie and I drove to Stanley today, we discussed this and I was wrong in voting in favor of HCR3013."

"I ask for your forgiveness," he continued, "and promise to do better."

Ruby expressed his regret in a comment to a Facebook post about the resolution. "I voted wrong," he wrote. "I'm going to testify against this when it gets to the senate."

Could the vote be called back to the House floor for reconsideration?

Louser says that's unlikely. "There's two ways," he told me. "My understanding is that (Rep.) Jeff Hoverson was not on record voting. He, because he was not there, could request a vote. Because

it's been more than one day, it would take two-thirds of the chamber to pull it back. It would take a majority to reconsider after one day."

It's unlikely that Hoverson, another Minot Republican who has expressed support for the resolution, and is one of the most socially conservative lawmakers serving in Bismarck, would be willing to call the vote to the floor again.

"Probably, the best route for those that want that to fail is to have it fail in the Senate," Louser said.

There are two takeaways from this turn of events, I think.

First is the importance of making things personal. [On the Plain Talk podcast Wednesday, \(https://www.inforum.com/opinion/columns/plain-talk-introducing-dozens-of-bills-is-poor-legislation-says-lawmaker\)](https://www.inforum.com/opinion/columns/plain-talk-introducing-dozens-of-bills-is-poor-legislation-says-lawmaker) I was talking about how Foss' speech probably made this issue less abstract and more personal for the lawmakers in the House chamber. It's one thing to make a decision about the LGBTQ community in the aggregate. It's another to look a colleague in the eye and tell them you don't believe they should have the same latitude to pursue happiness as heterosexual people do.

Second, it's important to give people you disagree with some space to change their minds. In politics, we have a tendency to treat people who change tack on an issue as though they are hypocrites. We call them "flip-floppers" and worse.

I've been as guilty of this as anyone.



But sometimes people really do change their minds, and sometimes that change in course is authentic.

Democracy, distilled down to its essence, is really just about persuading other people to change their minds and agree with you on a given issue or candidate. We should be happy when it happens.

 22 Comments

([#conversations](#))

 Share



 Opinion

 Tags



**Opinion by Rob Port(<https://www.inforum.com/rob-port>)**

Rob Port is a news reporter, columnist, and podcast host for the Forum News Service with an extensive background in investigations and public records. He covers politics and government in North Dakota and the upper Midwest. Reach him at [rport@forumcomm.com](mailto:rport@forumcomm.com). [Click here\(https://www.inforum.com/podcasts/plain-talk-with-rob-port\)](https://www.inforum.com/podcasts/plain-talk-with-rob-port) to subscribe to his Plain Talk podcast.

 [Twitter \(https://twitter.com/robport\)](https://twitter.com/robport)  [Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/rob.port\)](https://www.facebook.com/rob.port)

()

---

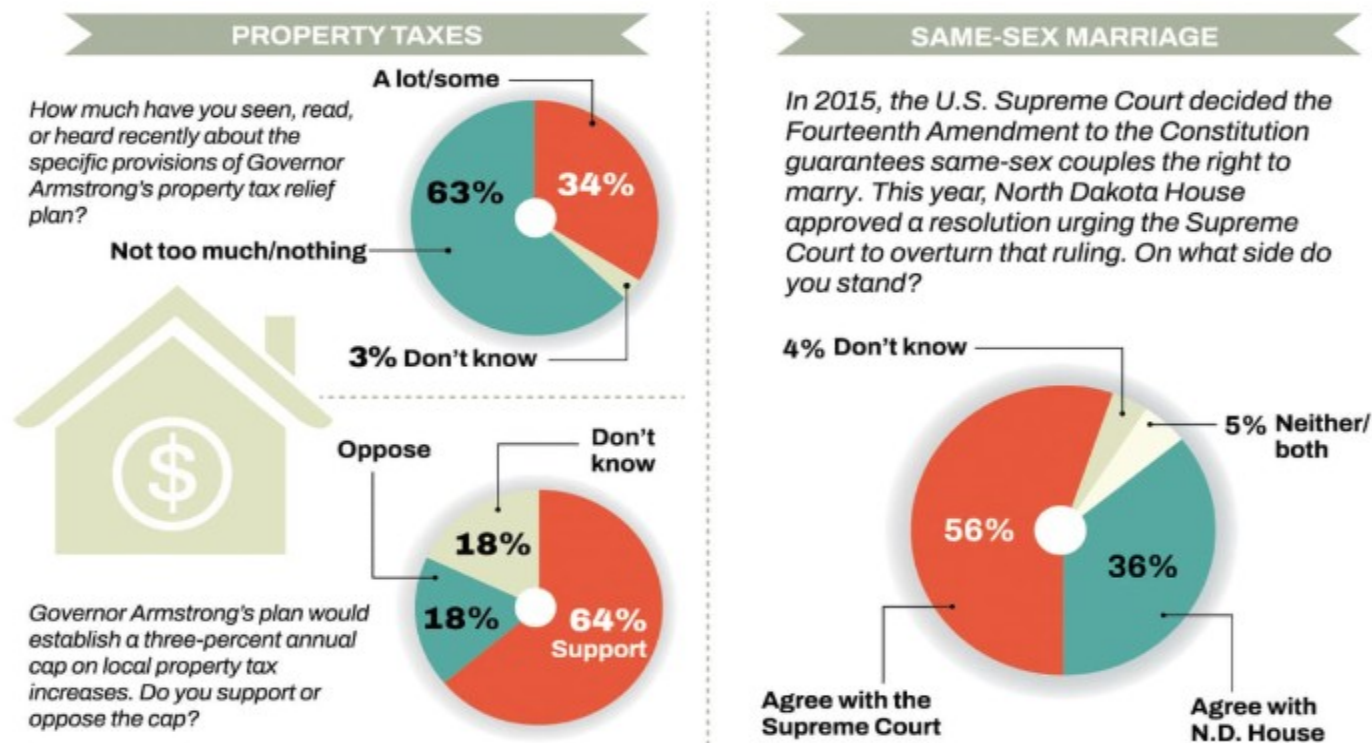
## CONVERSATION



NDNC POLL

# Poll: Most ND voters support Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage

Many in the dark on Gov. Armstrong's property tax proposal



Note: Pollsters called 500 North Dakota voters Feb. 27-March 2. The poll has an error margin of +/- 4.4%.

Source: North Dakota News Cooperative, WPA Intelligence

Troy Becker / The Forum

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 3013, which seeks to repeal marriage equality in North Dakota. As a concerned citizen of this state, I urge you to vote **no** on this resolution.

Marriage equality was not only a historic victory for LGBTQ+ rights but also a recognition of the fundamental right of every North Dakotan to love and marry the person of their choosing, regardless of gender. In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that marriage equality is a constitutional right, and it is imperative that we, as a state, continue to honor and uphold that right.

Repealing marriage equality would harm countless couples and families here in North Dakota, undermining their legal protections and sending a harmful message to the LGBTQ+ community. Our state should be a place that values fairness, love, and equality, not one that moves backward in time to exclude and marginalize its citizens.

North Dakota has made strides in becoming a more inclusive and welcoming state. Repealing marriage equality would take us in the wrong direction, diminishing the progress we've made toward creating a fairer society. I strongly believe that all people, regardless of whom they love, deserve the same rights, dignity, and respect under the law.

Please vote **no** on HCR 3013, and stand with the values of justice, equality, and love that make North Dakota a great place to live for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will make the right choice in support of all North Dakotans.

Angie Schmidt Benz

District 8

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

After seeing HCR 3013 pass in the House, I was left shocked. It is hard to fathom that the state I love and call home could even entertain this resolution, a resolution that very much sounds like bullying. Bullying is defined as abuse and mistreatment of someone vulnerable by someone stronger, more powerful, etc. Government taking away rights from a minority group seems to be just that, bullying. All people should be entitled by law to basic human rights, such as the right to be treated well. How can our state stand for denying acknowledgment of same-sex marriages, when that is a clear act of discrimination, when we have so many Federal laws against discrimination? People in favor of this resolution often argue that the Bible disapproves of homosexuality; however, the Bible also disapproves of divorce. Can we really pick and choose parts of the Bible that some see fit and implement them into legislation? Denying the ability to marry and only recognizing Civil Unions instead is not acceptable. Civil Unions do not carry from state to state, therefore stripping benefits and rights from those individuals. Studies published in Science News and the Journal of American Medical Association state that genes play a role in sexual orientation. How can we be ok with discriminating against someone for genetic predispositions? How can we say that one group of people is less-than another? Rather than picking parts of religion to dictate our laws, should we not simply get back to basics? The Golden Rule should help lay our foundation. Treating ALL others as we would want to be treated.

I strongly urge a DO NOT PASS recommendation on HCR 3013, so we can keep human rights intact.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Cari Lippert and Family

Committee Chair Diane Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I strongly urge a DO NOT PASS recommendation on HCR 3013.

There are a lot of reasons to urge this recommendation. For now, I will choose to emphasize how something like this affects business and overall perceptions of North Dakota.

I am a productive real estate agent in Fargo, ND and I have helped many LGBTQ clients buy and sell homes over my ten years in this work. Without fail, every single one of those clients has discussed with me their hesitations to live in our state because of the real possibility that North Dakota may not at some point recognize their marriage. Searches for new homes have been put on hold to watch a legislative session shake out. Other times clients have eliminated the possibility of a home search in North Dakota altogether, choosing to stay put or focus on living in Minnesota instead.

The ability of my clients to simply not choose North Dakota is unique to the Fargo-Moorhead community, but it doesn't change the fact that if folks have a reasonable alternative to feeling unwelcome, and can instead live in a community that accepts them and makes them feel safe, the choice is fairly easy.

Although North Dakota has an affordable cost of living and safe communities, we are not an otherwise attractive destination for a new generation of young families and workers. This state cannot afford to NOT do everything right. We are a flat, cold, and spread out state. We are aging and our rural and mid-size communities are hemorrhaging populations. And now, we are about to show the nation what we think of gay marriage. How can we hope to compete with other states for growth if we show that we reject a significant portion of the population? I hope we make the right decision and improve our image as a state that welcomes everybody and respects their absolute right to marriage.

Many of us love North Dakota for a variety of reasons. I can't put it to words very easily, but the short of it is that I feel at home here and I can see the potential for this state. HCR 3013 aims to damage the heart and worth of this fine Midwest state. Please, I urge a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

Thanks for your time and service to the state,

Ryan Dodd  
District 45 resident

## In Direct Opposition to HCR 3013.

-It is not the government's responsibility to decide who can marry who. It is a waste of taxpayer money to try to enforce this. What's next? Catholics can't marry Baptist? All weddings must be approved by a priest? Stop trying to enforce ideological control over people. Its unconstitutional and immoral. This is a waste of government time and does nothing to improve the lives of citizens. Just stop trying to force us into your religion. All it does is push more people away from your church.

To the members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to you today in strong opposition to HCR 3013.

Before I speak to this specific bill's potential for damage, I first want to relay my extreme disappointment in how much time and energy has been spent in this year's legislative session on performative measures. At best, these measures have highlighted how deeply steeped some legislators are in dangerous, extremist ideology, and at worst, these measures have encouraged the spewing of hate toward fellow North Dakotans. There are much more important initiatives and efforts that we should be spending our time on.

Now onto this specific bill. I am strongly opposed to this bill that urges the Supreme Court to overturn the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision and return the issue of marriage equality to the states. A Gallup poll from 2020 showed that nearly 70% of Americans support marriage equality. Since the *Obergefell* decision in 2015, over 500,000 same-sex couples have married across the United States, and the stability, legal recognition, and protection of their marriages have had significant positive impacts on their families. According to a 2019 report from the Williams Institute, the economic contribution of same-sex couples in the U.S. was estimated at \$1.7 billion annually. Reversing *Obergefell* would not only affect the personal lives of these individuals but would also disrupt the social and economic stability of thousands of families across the country.

If North Dakota were to pass this bill and make this statement, you are telling the estimated 2.7% of LGBTQ+ North Dakotans along with LGBTQ+ families across the US that they are not welcome here and that their families are not worthy of protection. We need to be setting North Dakota up to be a state that families want to move to and stay in, and with the majority of Americans, and North Dakotans, supporting same-sex marriage, North Dakota's decision to make a step backward would assuredly impact the decision of families to choose North Dakota as home in the future, including mine.

Thank you for your consideration, and again, I urge a DO NOT PASS.



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.”

My name is Danielle Yourk. I live in Mandan with my husband and 4 kids.

I was born and raised here in North Dakota. I am Catholic and about as conservative as you can get.

However, I think I can speak for the vast majority of my friends, acquaintances and even my generation, when I say, JUST STOP.

We don't care anymore. I don't care who wants to file taxes together as a married couple or get health insurance as a married couple. That piece of paper from the courthouse does nothing more than that!

Please, for the love of GOD, spend our tax dollars elsewhere! Make the government more efficient, cut wasteful spending, keep my daughter's sports teams for them and protect our constitutional rights.

There are so many more important things for you, our legislature, to be worried about than who marries who.

Just STOP!

11 March 2025

### **Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013**

Chair Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly,

I write to you today to voice my opposition to HCR 3013. This resolution purports to request the Supreme Court of the United States to reconsider its landmark decision in the case of *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015).

I am an employee of the State of North Dakota. I write to you in my personal capacity as a citizen of North Dakota.

I grew up here and have lived here for 48 years, sans a period of approximately 18 months while I was deployed and serving in Afghanistan. I have dedicated my adult life to working in public service, whether it be for the North Dakota National Guard or the State of North Dakota. My wife grew up in North Dakota and has lived here for over 50 years. We are North Dakotans.

In November 2020, I married the loveliest, genuinely good woman I have ever known. She makes my life better in every possible way. She supports me in everything I do and everything I feel. She calms me and I truly feel lost when we are apart.

I imagine each of you who has ever been in a loving relationship has felt the same about your partner.

It is not easy being a member of the LGBTQ community, but it is especially difficult for those of us living in North Dakota. North Dakota is not accepting of the LGBTQ community. Sure, there are supportive businesses, neighbors, friends, and family, but these are not the norm. Anyone living in North Dakota that believes it is no different to be LGBTQ than it is to be straight is nothing short of naïve. While acceptance is always welcome; we do not need every individual to accept us, how we live, or who we love. We merely want to be afforded the same marriage rights and protections under the law as married opposite sex couples. Nothing more. We need to be treated equally under the law.

Most of us heard the bill carrier speak on the House floor last month state the following. “Two cannot conceive or birth their child except for the coming together of a female and a male. We cannot have a country without children. We cannot perpetuate a country without a next generation. Based on the laws of nature, it’s just that simple.”

If it were “just that simple” – marriage between a male and a female should require the couple bear children. Obviously, codifying such a concept would be absurd, because it is an absurd requirement. THAT really is “*just that simple*.”

Individuals may argue the procreation aspect or the religious institution aspect when opposing gay marriage. The fact remains that neither of those are criteria under the law for an opposite sex

couple to get married. Which simply begs the question, “Why are those criteria the basis for one to justify their opposition to gay marriage?”

No couple needs to procreate to be married. No couple needs their marriage recognized by another’s church or religion. As so eloquently stated by your colleague in opposition on the House floor last month, what is between an individual and their god is just that, between them.

Marriage is so much more than those two concepts. Marriage is companionship, loyalty, respect, love, support, and humility. Marriage also includes legal rights and benefits. Most importantly, to us, marriage will allow us to be there for one another in the hardest of times, maybe next to a hospital bed making healthcare decisions or when receiving a notification of death due to an accident. Sure, we could get healthcare directives drafted and powers of attorney put in place. But those don’t prevent unaccepting family from challenging our directives. Most importantly, we **SHOULD NOT HAVE TO** get those to speak for one another during these times. We are spouses. We love each other just as any couple loves.

Gay marriage does not take away any benefit, protection, or right from any individual.

*Obergefell* recognized that the right to marry is a constitutionally protected, fundamental right guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the language of HCR 3013 does nothing but drum up support for future anti-LGBTQ legislation. Anyone who understands government knows that the Supreme Court does not choose cases based on letters written by legislators. The Supreme Court does not reconsider a decision merely because a state legislative assembly asks the Court to reconsider.

Further, HCR 3013 fails to acknowledge that the United States Congress codified the Respect for Marriage Act in 2022 requiring the federal government and all U.S. states and territories recognize same-sex and interracial marriages performed in other jurisdictions. This federal law was passed to ensure these protections could **NOT** be removed if the Supreme Court were to later determine these are not constitutionally guaranteed rights under the U.S. Constitution.

As written by the majority of the Court, “The right to marry is a fundamental right inherent in the **liberty** of the person, and under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment couples of the same-sex may not be deprived of that right and that liberty. Same-sex couples may exercise the fundamental right to marry.” (Emphasis added.)

North Dakotans like to use the phrase North Dakota Nice. The truth is **nothing** about HCR 3013 is nice. HCR 3013 has no legal basis nor any legal enforcement mechanism. It is meaningless and serves only one purpose. That is to tell the LGBTQ community we are not welcome in North Dakota.

My wife and I, along with the LGBTQ community are North Dakotans, we are members of your communities and your congregations, we are your coworkers, your neighbors, your friends, and

your family. We are professionals, including attorneys, doctors, specialists, caretakers, law enforcement, and service representatives; each of us contributing to make North Dakota a welcoming place for all individuals and their families.

Chair Larson and Committee Members, I thank you for your time.

My wife and I ask for a DO NOT PASS recommendation on HCR 3013.

v/r

///s///

Laura Balliet & Cathy Fuller

Mandan, ND

The chair and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I will be direct and concise. My name is Jessie Grounds. I am a two-time combat veteran, married to my husband for 11 years, and we have been together for 14 years. I have resided in Bismarck, North Dakota, since 2018, having returned to be near my family and contribute to this state's economy.

I anticipate much of the testimony against marriage equality will focus on religious beliefs, the 2014 Supreme Court decision, and states' rights. While I acknowledge the complexities of federalism, it is crucial to recognize that participation in the United States, as with the formation of North Dakota as a state, entails relinquishing certain individual rights in exchange for collective benefits.

My personal life, including my marital status, is a matter of individual liberty. It is not the purview of the state, nor is it the concern of anyone other than myself and my spouse. I reiterate, as I stated in my previous communications, that the private lives of consenting adults are not a matter for legislative intervention.

The core issue is not the term "marriage" itself. It is about the legal rights and responsibilities associated with it. Specifically, it is about the over 90+ federal benefits and protections afforded to married couples. I seek equal access to these benefits. If alternative legal frameworks, such as civil unions or other designations, provide identical rights and protections, I am amenable to such solutions. My objective is to achieve parity with heterosexual couples.

This matter concerns the fundamental right to equal protection under the law. As legislators, you have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution. I urge you to consider whether the state has the authority to deny a class of citizens their constitutional rights.

Your primary role is that of legislators, representing the interests of all constituents. Personal religious beliefs should not dictate public policy that infringes upon the rights of others.

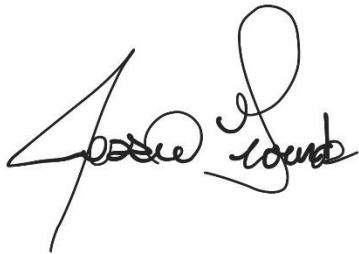
Before casting your vote, I ask you to consider the following: Does the state have the right to deny a citizen their fundamental rights? If so, on what legal basis? Personal beliefs, whether religious or otherwise, cannot supersede the constitutional guarantee of equal protection.

Furthermore, I remind you that the principle of equality extends to all aspects of life. If one chooses to invoke religious judgment, all individuals, regardless of their personal beliefs or circumstances, will be held to the same standard.

I respectfully request that you consider your decision and vote in favor of maintaining marriage equality.

Jessie Grounds

415.666.6080

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessie Grounds". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and "G".

10 March 2023

Dear Chair Larson, and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to you in regards to HCR 3013. This resolution is a direct violation of our First Amendment rights. The separation of church and state is very clear. This is also a direct attack on the LGBTQ+ community.

America is founded on varying beliefs, skin colors, sexual orientations, and religions. North Dakota would do well to remember that. We, as citizens of the United States of America and residents of North Dakota are allowed to practice any religion, to include none at all. Any bill or resolution that includes, "God's law" is blatantly unconstitutional.

If members of the LGBTQ+ community are excluded from these rights, then this is no longer a free county. This resolution would create basically second-class citizens who do not have the same rights because of their sexual orientation. This is unacceptable.

Many of the members of the legislature were around when it was illegal for a Black person to marry a white person, this was as recent as the 1960s. Interracial marriage was legalized in the US on 12 June 1967.

Marriage discrimination is the exact same thing that this legislature is trying to pass into law, but in the year 2025. Why would the government allow discrimination based on sexual orientation? Ask yourselves this, is discrimination acceptable? If yes, why? Where would the stripping of rights end? This is a step towards stripping rights away from people the North Dakota legislature do not agree with.

Defining marriage between a "biological man and biological woman" is, in my opinion, asinine. Who is going to check if someone is a "biological male or female"? If marriage is for producing children, is the next step to nullify marriages of people who don't want or can't have children? Are you going to make sure everyone who is getting married is religious?

Why are we wasting time and money on defining what is, truly at its core, a legal contract? This is unacceptable coming from government. North Dakota has voted for less government interference, but now the government wants to decide who can and cannot get married?

I enlisted in the North Dakota National Guard to uphold our constitution. I am absolutely disgusted with the legislature for even entertaining a resolution to strip rights away from a group of people because they exist. We, as a state, need to do better by our citizens. If one group of people doesn't have rights, then none of us have rights.



I urge you to do something better with your time that we, as taxpayers, fund and do not entertain this resolution any further.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to the State of North Dakota,

Sincerely,

Jess Earle

Carrington, ND

**Testimonial in Opposition to HCR 3013**

By: Heidi Ward

Dickinson, North Dakota

My name is Heidi Ward, and I am a loving North Dakotan, a proud wife, a mother, and an active member of my community. I am also an Army veteran who served in Iraq and was awarded a Combat Action Badge. I served my country with honor, fighting to defend the freedoms and rights that make America the land of opportunity for all. Now, I am asking my state legislators to stand up for my rights, my family, and the principles I fought to protect.

My wife, Erin, and I have built a life together in Dickinson, where we have lived, worked, and raised our family with the same values as any other North Dakota family—love, commitment, hard work, and responsibility. We have a 16-year-old son, Lucas, who is an outstanding student. Two years ago, he won National History Day and had his project displayed at the National History Museum in Washington, DC. He is bright, driven, and growing into a young man we are incredibly proud of. In just a few months, we will be welcoming our second son, Noah, into the world. Our family is thriving, contributing to society, and living the American dream—just as we should be able to.

HCR 3013 is a direct threat to my family, our legal protections, and our fundamental rights. If this resolution moves forward and ultimately leads to the repeal of marriage equality, it could dissolve my marriage and strip away the legal recognition that protects my wife, my children, and me. The consequences of such an action would be catastrophic, not just for my family but for thousands of other families like ours in North Dakota.

What would this mean for us? It could mean that my wife and I are no longer legally recognized as spouses, impacting everything from hospital visitation rights to inheritance laws, to health insurance coverage, to parental rights over our children. It could throw our lives into legal uncertainty, forcing us to fight in court for basic rights that opposite-sex couples take for granted.

Beyond the legal and financial ramifications, this resolution sends a cruel message that families like mine are less valid, less deserving, and less real. That message does not reflect the values of North Dakota—values of family, community, and fairness.

I have proudly served my country and continue to serve my community. Erin and I have lived here for close to a decade. We pay our taxes. We support our local businesses. We cheer on our hometown teams. We work hard to make our community a better place. We are not a threat to anyone. We are simply a family, like any other, who want to raise our children in a safe, stable, and loving home.

HCR 3013 is not just about policy—it is about people. It is about real families like mine who are being used as political pawns. I urge you to reject this harmful resolution and stand for fairness, equality, and the freedom for all families to live without fear of losing their fundamental rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Heidi Ward**

Dickinson, North Dakota



Dear Members of the North Dakota Senate,

We are writing to share our story—a story of love, commitment, and family. Love isn't written in our DNA. It's not something you can measure in chromosomes. Love is something you feel—something you build.” We are two women who chose each other, not because of societal expectations, but because of a deep and undeniable love. Together, we have built a life, a home, and a family that is just as real, strong, and deserving of respect as any other.

There is no chromosome that defines love. Love is not something determined by biology; it is something deeply felt, something that shapes our lives and our families.

Our children are growing up in a household filled with love, stability, and unwavering support. We teach them the same values that every parent strives to instill; kindness, responsibility, and integrity. And yet, despite the love and commitment that define our family, we constantly face the reality that some do not see us as equals under the law.

“Our children are growing up knowing they are loved beyond measure. They are learning kindness, resilience, and the value of being true to themselves. Isn't that what every parent wants?”

“And yet, despite the love that fills our home, there are still those who say our family is less than. That we don't deserve the same rights, the same protections, the same recognition.”

“But love makes a family. Not gender. Not outdated expectations. Just love.”

“We deserve the same rights as any other family. Because our love is just as real. Our commitment is just as strong. And our children deserve a world that values them—not as exceptions, but as equals.” We deserve the same legal protections, the same respect, and the same rights as any other family in North Dakota.

We ask you to stand on the side of fairness and equality. Stand with families like ours. Because at the end of the day, love is what makes a family—not gender, not outdated traditions, not politics. Just love.

“We ask you to stand with us. To see us. To recognize that every family built on love is worthy of respect. Because at the end of the day—love is love, and family is family.”

Often, those in favor of changing the definition of marriage to between only a man and woman quote verses from the bible. Isn't it funny they can pick and choose which parts of the bible should be followed?! What about these verses:

Mathew 7:12- So, in EVERYTHING, do to others what you would have them do to you.

If we are going to use the bible then this means all marriages should be up for debate, not just same sex.

Ephesians 4:32- Be KIND to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.

Trying to take away others legal rights, disrespecting them and trying to make us feel like less than, is NOT kind.

John 8:15/James 4:12/Corinthians 4:3- Only GOD can judge.

This one is self-explanatory. You should not be judging any marriage unless you are God.

Please vote no on this resolution and make ND proud.

Sincerely,

Andrea Jefferson

## **Janet Boynes Testimony**

**I was raised by a single mom with seven kids and four different fathers: One of the four fathers was a rapist and the other one that raised me was an alcoholic.**

**Many fights between my stepfather and my mom broke out in our home because of his drinking. However, I would soon adapt those same behaviors that were demonstrated to me by watching how my parents dealt with their issues, how they treated each other and what they said to each other.**

**I went to school and started acting out of my pain by beating up my peers. Being the middle child of seven in my family was hard for me because I was overlooked. I would do anything for mom's attention. My life began spinning out of control. I was getting suspended from school, being mean to teachers, and bullying my peers. No one understood why I was such a bully or what they called me a 'bad kid'. Nor did they know about the physical and mental abuse I endured at home.**

**I would talk with my 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher who was intentional about spending time with me. I told her everything except the mental & physical abuse I endured as a child. Nor did I share with her when I was raped by one of the four fathers at the age of thirteen. I didn't feel like I couldn't share my dark secret with her or anyone else.**

**Who would believe a bad kid like me. Most people would have thought I was saying that for attention. I told no one about the rape till I was 21 years old. I suffered in silence. When I decided to tell my mom and my recovering stepfather I wasn't believed.**

**As I got older, my heart hardened & I decided that I would never live the life my mother did, men will never abuse me mentally or physically, I will never marry a black man, and I will not have kids' wedlock.**

**When going through this trauma I thought who would want to marry a man after being rapes and physical abused. I later moved to Minneapolis MN and met a guy after I got saved. He courted me for three years and asked me to marry him. I said yes but that day would never happen because I had a sexual**

relationship with a female friend. I called off my wedding and lived as a lesbian for fourteen years. As time went on, I became bored and lonely. My girlfriend was not filling the emptiness and the void I was feeling at that time. After fourteen years I decided to rededicate my heart to Jesus. Getting to where I am today was a process. I thank the Lord for all those in the church that helped me in my journey.

Janet Boynes founded Janet Boynes Ministries in Maple Grove, MN in 2006. She wrote her first Curriculum, *Faith's Fight for Godly Culture / Dealing with the Gay Agenda*, authored the books: *Called Out- A Former Lesbian's Discovery of Freedom, God & Sexuality* & her latest book *God & The LGBT Community*. She challenges individuals and the church to reach out with a message of hope and restoration to those who struggle with identity issues. Her life is proof that the love of God has the power to heal and restore the brokenness in our lives. It's been over twenty years since she was called out of the lesbian lifestyle. Janet is an ordained minister Under the Assemblies of God and travels the U.S and overseas sharing a message of redemption. Her desire is to bring hope through the power of Jesus Christ.

“Honorable members of the senate, my name is Kristina. I am deeply concerned about the proposed bill that seeks to undermine marriage equality.

I have witnessed the profound love and commitment shared among my LGBTQ+ friends and family. Denying them the right to marry not only devalues their relationships but goes against the principles of equality and justice that our nation holds dear.

Marriage equality reflects our society's commitment to inclusivity and fairness. By supporting marriage equality, we affirm that every individual, regardless of whom they love, is entitled to the same rights and recognition. Let us stand for justice, love, and the true essence of marriage.”

To Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee.

This resolution calls for something I never thought would happen, so I'd like to tell you a bit about myself. I grew up between Lincoln, and Bismarck, ND. I grew up a proud American, knowing that I the had the privilege to grow up in the greatest country. A country that would protect my life and liberties, particularly in my home state of North Dakota. I write to you to express that this resolution aims for no other objective but to undermine those liberties. Based on our history in the Supreme Court, many civil cases fought to protect those rights. To list a few of them, Loving v. Virginia, Tinker v. Des Moines, and Miranda v. Arizona. In 2015, Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 64, ruled that same-sex couples have the same right to marry under the Equal Protections and Due Process Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. To summarize a bit, this resolution aims to overturn a fundamental freedom that found it's place in the Constitution through means of civil litigation. So, after all that, I must urge a do not pass on HCR 3013. Thank you Chair Klemin and members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for your time,

Colin Lippert



**BE CAREFUL WHO YOU HATE, IT MIGHT JUST BE SOMEONE YOU**



Dear Committee Members,

Please Vote No on HCR3013.

Richard Long,  
Berlin ND

## Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013

### Jennifer Boub – Licensed ND Social Worker

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to have my voice heard. My name is Jennifer Boub, and I am here to testify in opposition to this concurrent resolution. This resolution urges the United States Supreme Court to overturn its decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), which recognized marriage equality as a constitutional right. I oppose this resolution for several reasons, rooted in constitutional principles, human rights, and the values of equality and justice.

#### 1. Marriage Equality Upholds the Constitution's Guarantees of Equal Protection and Due Process

The Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell* reflects the core principles of the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees equal protection under the law. By recognizing same-sex couples' right to marry, the Court affirmed that government cannot arbitrarily exclude certain individuals from fundamental rights based solely on their sexual orientation.

The resolution before us claims *Obergefell* strayed from constitutional principles. On the contrary, it reinforced them by ensuring all citizens are treated equally under the law, without discrimination. Overturning this decision would strip same-sex couples of their fundamental rights, creating a class of citizens denied equal dignity and legal protections.

#### 2. Human Dignity is Inherent and Recognized, Not Granted, by Government

The resolution suggests *Obergefell* undermines human dignity by implying it comes from government. This mischaracterizes the Court's decision. *Obergefell* recognizes that human dignity is innate and must be respected by the state. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry diminishes their dignity by treating them as unequal under the law. Upholding marriage equality aligns with the Declaration of Independence's affirmation that all individuals are created equal.

#### 3. States Cannot Override Constitutional Rights

The resolution argues that marriage laws should be returned to the states. While states have authority in many areas, that authority cannot violate constitutional protections. Just as states cannot deny fundamental rights based on race, they cannot deny the right to marry based on sexual orientation. Constitutional rights are not subject to majority votes or state preferences.

#### 4. Marriage Equality Benefits Families, Communities, and Society

Since the *Obergefell* decision, thousands of same-sex couples have married, strengthening their families and contributing to their communities. Marriage equality provides stability, legal protections, and societal recognition to couples and their children. Overturning *Obergefell* would harm these families and create unnecessary legal and emotional turmoil.

#### 5. Religious Liberty and Marriage Equality Can Coexist

The resolution implies that marriage equality threatens religious liberty. This is a false dichotomy. The *Obergefell* decision explicitly protects the right of religious institutions to define marriage according to their beliefs. However, in a pluralistic society, civil marriage laws must ensure equal treatment under the law for all citizens, regardless of religious doctrine.

#### 6. Preserving Marriage Equality Reflects Modern Legal and Social Progress

Marriage equality is consistent with the evolving understanding of civil rights in the United States. Over the past decade, the majority of Americans have embraced marriage equality, recognizing it as a reflection of fairness, compassion, and justice. Reversing this progress would be a regressive step, out of alignment with societal values.

#### Conclusion

This resolution seeks to undermine the constitutional rights of same-sex couples and reverse progress toward equality. It disregards the principles of liberty, equality, and justice that form the foundation of our nation. I urge you to reject this resolution and stand in support of equal rights for all Americans.

Thank you, Jennifer Boub

Chairwoman Larson, members of the Judiciary Committee, and members of the Senate, I know how seriously you take and accept the roles and responsibilities of being elected to serve in our state's legislature. I was honored to serve in the North Dakota Senate beside and among many of you not too long ago where the very first responsibility we accepted was an oath to support the United States and North Dakota Constitutions.

Section 1, Article I of the North Dakota Constitution states that "all individuals are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty... and pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness..."

Section 3, Article I states that "the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference shall be forever guaranteed in this state..."

Our Constitution makes clear that all North Dakotans have the right to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If two consenting, North Dakota adults of the same sex view marriage as a way to obtain that, I see no compelling reason for you to deny them of that or to discriminate against them any more than you would to deny or discriminate against two consenting, North Dakota adults of the opposite sex.

Admittedly, I support marriage equality for a whole host of other reasons, including and most personally because of the many wonderful, caring, community-minded and family-loving individuals within the queer community who I know, love, and cherish as friends. None of those reasons are more core and fundamental than my belief that every single person in my state and in our country is deserving of equal rights and opportunities and that no one person is greater than or lesser than, above or below, any other.

I encourage you to oppose HCR 3013 if for no reason other than the oath you took when you were sworn into office as an elected official.

Thank you, very sincerely, for your service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Oban".

Erin Oban, Bismarck  
District 35 Resident

**Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013****Kylie A. Thurber, District 41****Senate Judiciary Committee****March 11, 2025**

Dear members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I strongly urge a DO NOT pass on HRC 3013.

Before I state my opinion and offer my own personal story, I do want to set the stage a bit. According to the NDLegis.gov website, the number of testimonies that have been received for both committees is at 162 (163 if you include mine) as of this evening on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Out of 163 testimonies, only 14 of them are in favor of this resolution. Out of those 14, three of those testimonies were from people and organizations that do not reside in this state. That means there are only 11 testimonies in favor of this resolution, and do not accurately reflect the state of North Dakota.

If we exclude the testimonies that are provided from people or organizations that are out of state, there are about ~145 testimonies in opposition to this resolution. That is an incredible turnout in comparison to those who are in favor. As state legislators, you are supposed to represent your constituents. Your constituents are demanding a DO NOT pass.

Nearly every testimony that is in favor of this resolution has referred back to the Biblical definition of marriage – one man and one woman as “God intended”. Representative Bill Tveit really set the stage when he opened the House Judiciary Hearing with his testimony in favor of this resolution as he quoted Genesis 2:20-25 NIV while breathing like a midwestern Nosferatu. There is also a testimony riddled with biblical verses, and another testimony that states, “Make America Biblical Again!!!!”.

What happened to the concept of separation of church and state? The phrase “separation of church and state” can be traced back to Thomas Jefferson’s letter to the Danbury Baptist Association in 1802 in which he states that the American people “...declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church and State”. This is a fundamental principle promised in the Constitution that ensures all people (religious or not) are treated the same.

In fact, the Constitution only refers to religion twice: in the First Amendment, which bars laws ‘respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ and in Article VI, which prohibits ‘religious tests’ for public office. Both of these provisions are evidence that the country was not founded as officially Christian” (Americans United; [www.au.org](http://www.au.org)).

Many of the sponsors for this bill are proudly involved in their church and religious communities. This information is listed within their own biographies for Rep. Tveit, Sen. Enget, Rep. Hoverson, Sen. Lemm, and Rep. Olson. It seems that they have some inherent biases or maybe conflict of interests that should have been left outside of the legislative assembly, and this is not the only anti-LGBTQ+ bill that has been introduced during this session (that they have also sponsored).

Now, who am I and why does my opinion or testimony matter? To whomever it may concern, I am a young woman from the east coast who decided to move to North Dakota for a job and for the love of my life. I work at a state institution, and I am not speaking on behalf of my institution, but as a constituent in District 41. I love the work that I do, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to move to Fargo which has provided me a safe city and a lower cost of living so that I could actually be with my partner of nearly 7 years.

I am actively looking to leave this state due to the politics here. This resolution, the behaviors and rhetoric I witnessed during the first committee hearing, and the other testimonies in favor of this resolution have all contributed to my extreme desire to leave. I have LGBTQ colleagues who are leaving, have already left, or are looking to leave this state as soon as possible because of the increase in Christian Nationalist ideals and policies. We are people who serve the communities in this state. The work we do matters, and we just want to feel like who we are as people matters. If people are looking to leave this state, you can sure as hell bet that people will avoid moving here as well.

As a lesbian in North Dakota, I do not feel welcomed, or that my life or my love matters. Why is *love* even considered a sin? Do you know what it's like to have your friends and your family look you in the eyes and tell you that they "love the sinner but hate the sin"? For them to tell you that you do not deserve the same rights as everyone else because of *who* you love? It's devastating, and heartbreaking. I try really hard to be a good person, extend empathy whenever possible, and continue to do my job that helps other people. I just want to live my life with my partner without being judged, scrutinized, or discriminated against.

While this resolution will not have an immediate impact (or potentially any impact on the Supreme Court if passed), it *is* showing constituents what the priorities of the 69<sup>th</sup> legislative assembly are. It is showing everyone that the state of North Dakota is a state full of bigoted and hateful people when you factor in all of the other anti-LGBTQ+ bills (i.e., HB 1144, HB 1181, HB 1430, SB 2244, SB 2392). We can't seem to get free universal lunch for all students (HB 1475 failed), but we can apparently agree on our hatred for LGBTQ+ people – got it.

Let's get our priorities straight instead of wasting time on resolutions and bills like this that only seek to harm the people who are actively contributing to our communities and this state. Again, as state legislators, you are supposed to represent your constituents and not your religious beliefs. Your constituents are overwhelmingly demanding a DO NOT pass on HCR 3013.

Thank you for your time,

Kylie A. Thurber, M.S.

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013, which seeks to redefine marriage exclusively as between a man and a woman. This resolution not only disregards the rights of many North Dakotans as well as all Americans but also sets a concerning precedent that undermines the values of equality, personal freedom, and respect for all individuals.

Marriage, as recognized by the Supreme Court, is a fundamental right that should not be restricted based on outdated definitions. Efforts to reverse progress on marriage equality risk harming families, communities, and the foundational principle that all citizens should be treated fairly under the law. Instead of revisiting restrictive policies, we should focus on legislation that unites rather than divides, ensuring that all Americans—regardless of sexual orientation—are granted equal dignity and protection.

In addition to being a concerned resident of North Dakota, I am also a mother to a gay child. This is hurtful and embarrassing that we are even talking about this resolution, but it is imperative that this not go any further.

I urge you to oppose HCR 3013 and stand for the principles of fairness, freedom, and inclusion that strengthen our nation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Staehr

Dear Chair Klemin and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I strongly urge a "Do Not Pass" on HRC 3013.

I am someone who has lived here for 16 years, was moved here as a child, and is a current student at University of North Dakota in their Junior year at the English Program here with minor in Women and Gender Studies. I am also the co-president of The Queer Trans Alliance student organization whose main goal is to give support, education, and promote advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community in the Greater Grand Forks area and UND's campus itself.

I speak on behalf of myself, my partners, my friends, and members of the community this resolution directly impacts, but most importantly the people in my organization and community that look up to me as a leadership figure in such an unforgiving and hate-filled world to them for just having a societally viewed non-normative identity for support and for how to process what this legislation is doing against them.

The basis of this resolution is completely the opposite of what the United States stands for as a country. Going through the responses that were in favor of this resolution, we see a common pattern of people stating that this is for religious reasons that this should pass ranging from the wellbeing of children to it being a covenant between man and women. This is all being from only one single branch of religion the magnificent country has to offer, Christianity. Christianity may be the major religion that is practiced but these responses do not bring into thought what other religions might think on the topic which in of itself violates the First Amendment since the argument here favors one religion over another.

But if you want to use Christianity as a basis for this argument, from someone who was raised in the religion but does not practice anymore for what you guys have shown it to be, it holds no water in this argument.

To quote Matthew 5:43-47 (NIV):

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends

rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you only greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?"

In doing this resolution, where is the love for what you deem to be your enemy? What reward is this going to bring for you? What are you doing that is more for others? None. None at all. There isn't a speck of love for the LGBTQ+ community in this resolution. It is the exact opposite of it. It is hate filled and a bad representation of your own religion and God. To bring to light to this board that wants to bring God, remember what the son of God, Jesus said.

To quote Matthew 7:1-2 (NIV)

"Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Your own religious text states specifically that you are not in the place to judge. More specifically, you shouldn't judge unless you want to be judged too. Love itself cannot thrive in judgement of said actions. You cannot love an enemy, then turn your back and judge them, passing resolutions like this nor bills that restrict their own freedoms they have a right to. In the end, if you think they must be judged for it, leave it to your God.

Another point that kept coming up is that marriage as an institution is to be between biological females and males. If you took biology past high school, you would know it is more complicated than that. There are *over 30 known types of intersex variations*, which affect people differently depending on what condition they have and we are finding more and more each day. There are chromosomal variations such as Klinefelter syndrome (47, XXY), X0/XY mosaicism, Jacobs Syndrome (XXY), 46, XX/46, XY, de la Chapelle syndrome (46, XX testicular difference of sex development), and so many more cause genetic variations that can cause different presentation. There are hormonal variations such as Late Onset Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome, Androgen Deficiency, Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Insensitivity, and many more where they can 'genetically' have an XX or XY but their bodies themselves present differently than that. There are anatomical variations such as Aphallia (Or Penile Agenesis), Polyorchidism, Testicular Dysgenesis Syndrome, Persistent Müllerian Duct Syndrome, Anorchia (Or Gonadal Agenesis), Vaginal Atresia, and so many more that bring the body to show differently than what is societally 'a man' or 'a women'. With this resolution, you would be leaving out this group of people who medically are not what this congression would consider to be biologically a male or female. This in of itself is discrimination towards this group of people and is against this state's constitution and this wonderful country's federal constitution.



Let it be said that the equal protection clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment does state that “no state can deny equal protection of the law to any person within its jurisdiction”. If marriage is an institution that is a right to the people of this state and this country, then any attempt to limit it between consenting adults is in direct opposition to this.

Once more strongly urge a “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013.

Thank you for your service to the community and to your constituents.

Meghan Byrd

Co-President of Queer Trans Alliance

Hello my name is Karen Marie Van Wyk and I am the National Organizational Organization Director for MassResistance.

My reasons for supporting our resolution against Obergefell are as follows:

1. Same sex marriages are biologically, emotionally and relationally unstable and the statistics prove this as the highest rates of violence come from these same sex “ marriages”
2. Marriage is not a term appropriate for sodomy or perverted lesbianism. There can be another title given to it and no one in the right is hating as they accuse of, but it is not marriage. Call it something else but it is NOT marriage. Marriage since the beginning of time has been a union between one man and one woman.
3. Our constitution addresses our society as one reflecting the laws of nature and of God. Sodomy defies the laws of nature and its purpose in reproduction. The health hazards of sodomy are numerous and Gods word forbids sodomy. So called “gay marriage” defies the laws of nature and God and there is no protection for it on any level in our Constitution.
4. Gays talk about their “rights”. It’s not a right but something they try to force on others to accept. It is not a marriage and no one should be forced to accept anything that perverts the intended nature of marriage.
5. Since the beginning of time marriage was between one man and one woman and now it is pushed as a “right”. The one thing “gay” marriage has produced in this society is confused children, and abused children, Homosexuality is the core root of all sexual perversions and it should not and must not ever be termed “ marriage” This is not an emotional argument it is a law of common sense.

## Testimony of Phyllis Johnson, PhD

### In opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013

My name is Phyllis Johnson. I am a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary, anticipating ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) in America later this year. As part of my training, I currently serve as a Synod Authorized Lay Minister and Intern Pastor for three small ELCA congregations in the Grand Forks area. My responsibility as a faith leader is guide my congregations and community in accordance with Holy Scripture and the principles of justice that are articulated in the United States Constitution. This resolution concerns the right of same-sex couples to marry, and as such, is in conflict with both my Christian faith and constitutional law.

The ELCA's theology is centered on grace, love, and justice. These theological principles allow for same-sex marriage in the church and civilly. Two of the principal scripture passages supporting this are Galatians 3:28 and Mark 12:29-31. They read as follows.

**Galatians 3:28**—"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." We are bound by love that is not dependent on gender, race, or status. When two people love one another and are fully committed to one another and wish to be married, they should not be denied the opportunity to be married.

**Mark 12:29-31**—When asked what is the greatest commandment, "Jesus answered, 'the first is "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Love is at the center of our Christian faith; it is the core of the greatest commandments. If we keep loving couples from being legally married, we are violating the commandment to love one another. Same-sex couples should be able to live there love for one another fully within marriage just like those of us who are in heterosexual marriages.

This resolution urges the overturn of established constitutional law. In 2015, the United States Supreme Court in *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruled that same-sex couples have the right to marry. The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees equal protection of the law to all, undergirds this decision. Overturning this decision would violate the constitutional rights of same-sex couples, and it would violate my right to marry them, which I am authorized to do by my bishop.

Same-sex couples deserve the right to marry like everybody else. They deserve the dignity of having their relationships recognized by both the church and the law.

As a scientist, I reject the idea that being LGBTQ+ is a “lifestyle.” For example, for more than 30 years, there has been scientific evidence that homosexuality is determined by genetics. There are more than 500 species of animals that exhibit homosexual behavior. We should no more discriminate against this aspect of genetics than we should discriminate against people who don’t have blue eyes.

As someone who has family members who are gay, lesbian, and trans, I find this resolution to be deeply hurtful. I want all of my grandchildren and nieces and nephews to be treated equally and with justice before the law. That includes recognizing their right to be married when they find a person they wish to be committed to before God. The anti-LGBTQ+ animus reflected in this and other bills has made at least one of them reluctant to even come to Grand Forks to visit me, because she doesn’t feel welcome or even safe in this state. She also happens to be a highly skilled RN, but she will never consider relocating to North Dakota because her personal dignity is not respected. Bills like this are an effective way to heighten, rather than mitigate, our state’s workforce shortage.

I urge you to Vote NO on this resolution.

Phyllis E. Johnson, PhD.

ELCA seminary student, Grand Forks, ND.

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HCR 3013.

Merriam-Webster-Webster's Dictionary defines the term "marriage" as the following:

- the state of being united as spouses in a [consensual](#) and contractual relationship recognized by law
- the mutual [relation](#) of married persons : [WEDLOCK](#)
- the [institution](#) whereby individuals are joined in a marriage
- an act of marrying or the rite by which the married status is [effected](#)  
*especially* : the wedding ceremony and attendant festivities or formalities

The common definition of marriage is by no means bound to any factors based on sex and gender and the union of such spouses poses no threat to our society from a secular standpoint. Cases such as *Lawrence v. Texas*, 2003, have proven time and time again that moral disapproval is not a valid basis for policing liberties. Similarly, traditional values should have no power to deny present-day marriage rights. As of today there is no legitimate secular purpose that this bill would serve.

This bill is also a direct violation of Separation of Church and State, A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT that prohibits any government from enforcing anything on the basis of favoring one religion over another. This amendment clearly states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The bill reflects a motivation influenced by traditional values very commonly held by those of the Christian faith. Defining marriage on this basis amounts to state endorsement of a specific religiously-backed belief, which violates the amendment. Marriage should remain a legal process, not one influenced by the beliefs of one group not everyone practices. Arguments that marriage equality violates religious law have no place in a secular system with Constitutional protections of religious equality. *Obergefell v. Hodges* granted same-sex marriage as a CONSTITUTIONAL right, not a Christian one approved by God Himself.

Thirdly, and this may already be apparent, the bill is a direct infringement of Civil Rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment. This amendment guarantees equal protection under the law. In *Obergefell v. Hodges* the Supreme Court affirmed that denying same-sex couples the same rights as opposite-sex couples is unconstitutional. Enacting such a bill would contradict that ruling by creating discrimination against a specific group, and can and likely will lead to discrimination and more oppression across the state. Think of how this will affect the legal stability of *Obergefell v. Hodges* in the long run. Think of how this will affect the rights of already married same-sex couples, how it may cause instability for their families, other legal rights unrelated to marriage, and healthcare.

Lastly, consider the harm this will cause to the good citizens of North Dakota who will be affected by this. Consider those who already suffer from discrimination on a less grandiose scale. Consider the many North Dakotan lives the right to marriage has improved over the past decade. Those of you who have been married and love your spouses unconditionally, wouldn't you think same-sex couples across the state feel the same way?

On a more emotional and personal note, I have lived in North Dakota my entire life and have gotten to know many, many wonderful people. The kindest, smartest, most caring people I know all live here. Some of them are a part of the LGBTQ+ community and some are not. Neither way makes them any less of people, and no law or regulation or belief system should have any power to change that. Denying them the basic right to marry would diminish their dignity and humanity, something I would not wish on anyone. Loving someone regardless of sex or gender should not be a political issue.

Murder is a crime because it hurts lives.

Assault is a crime because it hurts bodies and minds.

Theft is a crime because it hurts bank accounts.

Crime hurts. Ask yourself, what earthly entity does consensual love between people hurt?

Please look into your heart and consider the ramifications of this decision. Actual human beings of the state of North Dakota depend on it.  
Overall, be “North Dakota Nice.”

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Michael Paul Porter.

Testimony Opposing HCR 3013  
Karen Eriksmoen, Fargo, ND, District 11  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 11, 2025

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

Even though this is a resolution and not a law, it is a message to the residents of North Dakota and every other state that LGBTQ+ folks aren't welcome in North Dakota! Is that really the message we want to send from our state?

- HCR 3013 is unwelcoming, discriminatory and harmful. As we heard from Rep. Austin Foss, this is unwelcoming to many families in North Dakota and is harmful to them and for our state. It discriminates against couples and families who live and work here and does not support our belief in equality for all. What right do some in our state have to decide what a marriage and family should look like? The Supreme Court does not believe that it is a right and neither does a majority of those who live in North Dakota.
- HCR 3013 would have social and financial repercussions. Same sex marriage has been a part of our society for many years. We have families with children and couples who have been together since being recognized as legal. Promoting the dissolution of these families and marriages would be devastating. Dismantling these families because others don't think they should be allowed to exist...what could possibly be beneficial?
- HCR 3013 would have an emotional toll. This recommendation to the federal government to change the law which makes marriages legal between two men or between two women is thoughtless and damaging to those who have a loving relationship and have committed their lives to one another. The emotional damage that taking away this right, to be married to the person you love, would be heartbreaking and dangerous.
- HCR 3013 attacks our family and feels very personal. Members of my family have been together for over 25 years in a marriage that is still going strong. We support and honor all the marriages in our family whether they are between a man and a woman, a woman and a woman and a man and a man and we have them all! Finding the person you want to spend your life with, in a marriage, is nothing short of a miracle.

I strongly oppose HCR 3013 and urge you to vote DO NOT PASS.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Karen Eriksmoen, 1913 5<sup>th</sup> Street South, Fargo, ND 58103

For some time now, we have been told that same sex marriage would not affect anyone else, except for the people getting married. My wife and I are living proof that this is not the case. We own sweet cakes by melissa, originally in oregon, now in montana. The state of oregon used same sex marriage to run us out of business and try to financially ruin us because we had a religious belief that marriage is netween a man and a woman. We are not the only ones in this country that this has happened to.

We watched the state of Oregon, the bureau of labor and industry a state agency headed by a ultra-liberal Anti constitutional, anti christian, commissioner use his position to ruin a christian couple that wasoperating their



business by the tenets of their faith. When two women could not get a custom designed wedding cake from us and were apologized to for that, the state agency reached out to them and offered to take up this issue free of charge. We had the full weight of the government bearing down upon us with no hope of winning in the commissioner's crooked court. We were accused of such lunacy, such as mental rape and causing people to start smoking and to quit smoking to gain weight to lose weight and to fear for their lives. All because they couldn't get a wedding cake from us. We have been in a legal battle for twelve years now over this. My twins who were just born are now teenagers, I have grandchildren, I have moved to another state and my life is drastically different because of what same sex marriage and a rogue state agency

caused.

This is not a simple matter that will go away, this is exactly what they have been trying to do for years now, force everybody to adhere to it and support it. As christians, we cannot do that because we serve a God that that said in his word, marriage is between one man and one woman. This court's decision tells us that we have to adhere to a different definition because the government says it's right.

Obergerfeld needs to be challenged because it has the potential to allow federal agencies to do others what the state of oregon has done to us. That would violate the united states constitution on many levels.

Lastly, I don't know of any federal agency issuing marriage licenses. This would make it a state's issue, not a federal

**issue. Don't let the federal government  
take away your state's rights and your  
citizens rights.**

March 11, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to HCR 3013 and in support of marriage for all people, no matter their sexual orientation. As a mother of two and grandmother of five, I pray that all people feel supported for whom they love, and I believe it is not State Legislators who should decide otherwise.

Please vote in favor of making North Dakota more inclusive, not less.

Sincerely,

Lynn Sperial  
1434 9<sup>th</sup> St. S.  
Fargo, ND 58103

Dear Chair Kelemen and the members of the Judiciary Committee.

I am urging you to vote DO NOT PASS on HCR 3013.

I was born, raised, and currently live in North Dakota. This is the only place I have called home. I am also one of the thousands of LGBTQIA+ people living here. I, as well as the rest of this wonderful community, need the same rights as everyone else. Who I love does not determine my worth as a person. This resolution tells thousands of people in the state that their love is less than, that they are not valid or worthy of being able to marry the same way their neighbors do.

Even if this resolution passes, LGBTQIA+ people will still live in North Dakota. We will still be here, even if you wish, pray, and vote for us to not be. This bill will not end LGBTQIA+ love in this state. It will just show that those with the loudest voices do not welcome us.

Please do not pass this resolution.

Emily Scheresky

## Oppose HCR3013

### God is Love

Respectfully, when people have a genuine Love for each other, why should we, as a State, condemn that. Over the years, I have met many individuals who are in a same sex marriage and I see them no differently than I see anyone else. What if you have a son or daughter, granddaughter or grandson, great-granddaughter or great-grandson who find Love, and it is not with someone of the opposite sex. How do you even begin to explain a law which man enacted?

I am quickly reminded of a time when I was a young girl, as my aunt was preparing for her wedding day. We were all gathered when I saw the adults crying. I suppose they thought I was too young to understand so the reasons for all those tears, so nothing was explained to me that day. However, soon I would hear in discussions that my aunt wanted to get married in her Church. The Church that she grew up in, Prayed in, a Church her family supported. The reason, my family was in tears was because the Pastor refused to conduct the Wedding in that Church, because my aunt was in Love with a Catholic man. How? Why? If God really is Love? How can man be so cruel? I guess here I am, nearly 66 years of age, asking that same question? Please Oppose this Hurtful Bill, HCR3013

Sandra Rupp, Edgeley ND















I'm 35 years old, I've known I was attracted to women since I was 5 years old. I wanted "a boy cut" which to me meant shaved sideburns... my mom cried when she let my aunt cut off my ponytail that went passed my butt. To this day, my mom still has it. But she let me do it, because it was me, and she loved me.

When I was too young to know any difference, I wore Dalmatian suspenders to my school recitals. I wanted to be called "Al". Absolutely not Allison.

Once I was old enough to know the difference, I cried daily. When I got to middle school, 7th grade and up I pretended as hard as I could to like boys. I had the best looking and most popular boyfriends. I didn't want to be gay, to be honest, no one does!!!! It's HARD! It's a life of bullying and constant questioning, internally and externally.

Who I am was someone I hid (or at least thought I was hiding) from my friends and family throughout middle school at Jim Hill and high school at Central Campus and Minot High.

When I left Minot and went to college at UND, my eyes were opened. There were other people like me. We were all finally away from our hometowns and able to truly be ourselves. I wasn't alone anymore. And looking back, I wish I would have stood up sooner, because I know there are other friends growing up who would have followed suit and been able to be themselves. But at the time, it was scary. I didn't want to be gay, no one does.

I moved back to Minot after college, and guess what! Went back to hiding my true self immediately. Tried to date men again, tried so hard to be "how I was supposed to be in Minot".

It was my friends who questioned me, turned out I wasn't as good at hiding as I thought I was! I'll never forget my talk with one of my best friends, Delaney Coyle. I said Delaney, I'm gay. She said, "Yeah you told me in 3rd grade on the swings." Same with Josie Gilles, "yeah, obviously." Ali Lambert "yeah, we know who cares." Dani Lafontaine, "yeah little A, we all know!"

Thank God, yes God, (just because I'm gay doesn't mean I can't believe in God), Allee Kory came into my life. A beautiful blonde an absolutely incredible strong-willed woman, who didn't care what ANYONE thought. She came to me, and I will be forever grateful she did.

We said I love you on our 3rd date, which was 3 days after our 1st date. We were together for 5 years before getting married.

In 2021 I called my father-in-law Andy and mother-in-law Heidi from the jewelry store parking lot asking for their permission to marry their daughter. It was so uncomfortable for me to say out loud, and sometimes it still is!

I called my dad as I was on my way home from the jewelry store. He and I had never ever ever had a conversation about my sexuality, he knew, I knew, but we talked about sports, hunting, and fishing. I was scared to death, and I will never forget the phone call.

I said, "dad, I am going to ask Allee to marry me."

Holding my breath and crying as I waited for his response.

He said "Well, this is the new generation! And I support any decision you make!"

The tears when from fear, to absolute relief.

If it was that hard for me to tell my own father, imagine standing up to strangers.

A HUGE weight was off my shoulders. We went on as normal. Still talking about sports, hunting, and fishing. Because I was still me. It didn't matter who I was marrying, I was still his little Al.

I proposed the same night I bought the ring, I put "will" "you" "marry" "me" "I approve" bandanas on our 5 dogs, with her dog cubby roo's collar holding the ring.

We got married 3 months later in our backyard on the shoreline of Lake Sakakawea. My family and her family in the front row, my family's friends there in support. One of them, a conservative as most attendees were, told me it was the most beautiful wedding he had ever been to.

We kissed at the alter, for most of the people at our wedding it was the first time ever seeing me kiss a woman, or probably any same sex couple kiss.

We walked down the aisle, holding hands in an absolutely insane strong partnership. That, I will never ever forget.

We chose to be partners. We chose marriage as a partnership. We chose each other. As a man and a woman had the right to a partnership, so did we.

Thank God for the Supreme Court. Because if it weren't for them, our wedding day wouldn't have been possible. They stood up for me and those like me, who just wanted a fair partnership like everyone else was given. Who simply wanted to choose someone as their partner and fight through life with them, no matter what.

As of today, February 25th 2025, my wife & I have been happily married for 3 1/2 years with forever to go.

ND alone wouldn't have passed this, but the Supreme court looked after me. I may live in a completely conservative state, and I might even be completely conservative myself, but my sexuality is something I can't change just because of where I live.

I shouldn't feel the need to leave North Dakota because I am married to an absolutely incredible woman. My life is GREAT! I love North Dakota!

Because I am able to love who I love, be my true self without the constant feeling of having to hide, North Dakota has gotten the absolute best version of myself and my wife.

We are proud to operate a successful Non-Profit Animal Rescue where we continue to help animals and the humans of our community multiple times per day.

In our animal rescue, we have seen ALOT. North Dakota has ISSUES! BIG ONES! Animal cruelty, child neglect, drug abuse, mental health... the list goes on and on and on. But guess what ISN'T one of the problems, my wife & I loving each other.

We have incredible difficulties in North Dakota, our kids don't have foster homes nor adoptive homes, families can't afford to feed their children, health care and animal vet care is a luxury. If you're literally pleading for mental help it takes admission into an ER clinic to get it, and even then, it's still pulling teeth to get help.

Adolescent help in our state is a 0. Mental health help in our state is a 0. Drug addiction help in our state is a 0. And you voted to take away my rights to love who I love and marry my life partner?????????

Wake up North Dakota.

If you're reading this and you are struggling internally, know you're not alone. Without my Wife, my life wouldn't be the way it is today. I love her, and we love you! Stay strong, we won't let them win!

Love,  
Ali & Allee Parizek  
Happily Married North Dakotan Lesbian Couple

Here is the list of those who voted to take our marriage rights away: If you are on this list, I sincerely hope you read my story and reconsider your vote.

(YEA) Anderson, B.  
(YEA) Brandenburg  
(YEA) Frelich  
(YEA) Hendrix  
(YEA) Johnson, J.  
(YEA) Kasper  
(YEA) Koppelman  
(YEA) Maki  
(YEA) Meier  
(YEA) Motschenbacher  
(YEA) Olson, S.  
(YEA) Pyle

(YEA) Ruby, D.  
(YEA) Schatz  
(YEA) Steiner  
(YEA) Tveit  
(YEA) Vollmer  
(YEA) Wolff  
(YEA) Heilman  
(YEA) Johnston, D.  
(YEA) Kempenich  
(YEA) Lefor  
(YEA) Marschall  
(YEA) Novak  
(YEA) Osowski  
(YEA) Ruby, M.  
(YEA) Schauer  
(YEA) VanWinkle  
(YEA) Anderson, K.  
(YEA) Bolinske  
(YEA) Christianson  
(YEA) Fisher  
(YEA) Grueneich  
(YEA) Hatlestad  
(YEA) Heinert  
(YEA) Jonas  
(YEA) Kiefert  
(YEA) Longmuir  
(YEA) Rios  
(YEA) Vetter  
(YEA) Hauck  
(YEA) Henderson  
(YEA) Karls  
(YEA) Klemin  
(YEA) Louser  
(YEA) McLeod  
(YEA) Morton  
(YEA) Nehring  
(YEA) Rohr  
(YEA) Satrom  
(YEA) Vigesaa  
(YEA) Weisze

Dear Chair Klemin and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a Do Not Pass on HRC 3013.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to ND HCR 3013, a resolution that poses a direct threat to the rights and legal protections of LGBTQ+, and with an unintentional threat to interracial marriages. As a licensed clinical social worker and a partner in an interracial marriage, I am deeply concerned that this resolution could lead to the erosion of fundamental marriage protections that safeguard the well-being of North Dakotan families.

As a social worker, my ethical obligations are guided by the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, which affirms the dignity and worth of every person and calls for the advancement of social justice. ND HCR 3013 stands in direct opposition to these principles, as it seeks to undermine established marriage protections that promote family stability, economic security, and emotional well-being. The NASW Code explicitly urges social workers to challenge discrimination and advocate for equal rights, making it imperative that we oppose any legislation that threatens the rights of marginalized communities. As a clinician, I witness firsthand the devastating mental health toll of institutional discrimination and legal uncertainty on North Dakotans and their families. Legal recognition of marriage is not just about ceremony or tradition—it provides critical protections in areas such as healthcare, parental rights, and financial stability. Stripping away these rights places families in vulnerable positions, exacerbating stress, anxiety, and systemic inequities.

The landmark Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) struck down state bans on interracial marriage, affirming that marriage is a fundamental right protected by the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. Decades later, *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) extended these protections to same-sex couples, ensuring marriage equality nationwide. In response to growing concerns that these rights could be overturned, the Respect for Marriage Act (RFMA) was enacted in 2022, codifying federal recognition of both same-sex and interracial marriages. This legislation ensures that if a marriage is legally performed in one state, all states must recognize it, regardless of future court rulings or state-level attempts to restrict marriage rights. By seeking to challenge or weaken these protections, ND HCR 3013 could pave the way for a legal rollback of marriage rights, putting North Dakotan families—including my own—at risk of losing essential benefits, legal recognition, and protections.

If passed, this resolution would not only jeopardize LGBTQ+ marriages but could also set a dangerous precedent for challenging interracial marriage protections. While many assume that interracial marriage is universally accepted, history has shown that rights once considered secure can be eroded through legal and legislative means. My marriage, like many others, exists today because of the hard-fought legal protections that ensure equal rights regardless of race or sexual orientation. Legislation like ND HCR 3013 targets and harms North Dakotans.

I urge you to oppose ND HCR 3013 and instead advocate for policies that uphold the dignity, rights, and protections of all families. Upholding marriage equality is not only a legal and ethical necessity but a moral imperative. I implore you to stand on the right side of history and reject this harmful resolution.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KD' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Katherine Dachtler, MSW, LCSW, LICSW



Twyla Humann

March 11, 2025

Attn: Senate Judiciary Committee

I am in opposition to bill HCR3013. The people of North Dakota do not want to go back in time and push our family and friends away from our state. We all have the right to love and marry of our choice. I'm sorry if you disagree but I feel this bill is the personnel beliefs of a select group of individuals. Don't recall hearing this bill being on anyone's campaign positions.

The news is reporting that polls are showing that majority of North Dakotan's are in support of same sex marriages. But, to get an accurate feel for all North Dakota constituents further polling should be done before a decision is made, or better yet it should be voted on by all of North Dakota on the next ballot.

Thank you for your time.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN**  
**OPPOSITION**  
**HCR 3013**

Denise Ann Dykeman 1840 12<sup>th</sup> St SW, Minot, ND 58701

Committee chair and members of the committee, my name is Denise Ann Dykeman. I am a resident of Minot, North Dakota. I write in opposition of HCR 3031.

I oppose this resolution because is oppressive, unamerican, unkind, and a waste of time.

This is the United States of America.

People should be free to live their lives any way they choose that isn't hurting someone else.

Queer people aren't hurting anyone else by getting married.

This kind of legislation is a waste of everyone's time when there are REAL ISSUES like the President of the United States actively dismantling the dedicated and faithful United States Civil Service, allowing the country to be bought by an unappointed and unaccountable billionaire, and supporting Vladimir Putin! The ND legislature could perhaps stop trying to get into everyone's bedrooms, look up, and instead take action to protect our people and our democracy.

I propose we amend this resolution to read:

A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to:

- **Protect civil rights**  
Strike down laws that violate the Constitution, such as those that harm unpopular minorities.
- **Interpret the Constitution**  
Ensure that the Constitution is upheld and that the government's actions are in line with its limits.
- **Ensure equal justice**  
Ensure that all people have access to justice and that the law is applied fairly.
- **Be impartial and ethical**  
Avoid being influenced by partisan politics and bribes.

Please oppose HCR 3013 and do something useful for the people of North Dakota.

Respectfully,  
Denise A. Dykeman  
1840 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Minot, ND 58701

March 11, 2025

Dear Senators of the ND Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to you as a lifelong resident of North Dakota to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013. I urge you recommend a DO NOT PASS and to consider the harmful, discriminatory impact of this proposed resolution on our state and its people. HCR 3013 is an inappropriate overreach of religious belief into our local government system and is deeply rooted in intolerance.

In 2015, the Supreme Court ruled in Obergefell v. Hodges that same-sex couples have the right to marry in all 50 states. It was deemed unconstitutional for states to prohibit same-sex couples from marrying, and per the Fourteenth Amendment all U.S. states would be required to recognize same-sex marriages. The majority of Americans and North Dakotan's are in favor of such protections and support. HCR 3013 is discriminatory, divisive, and sends a clear message that same-sex couples are not worthy of the same rights as privileges as opposite-sex couples, including social security, taxes and inheritance. It sends the message that same-sex couples are not worthy of recognition, period.

HCR 3013 is not about protecting values for North Dakotan's, it is a blatant and harmful attack on same-sex couples and families. As a woman happily married to a man, I've never had to worry about my marriage being not being recognized by the state or the threat of my marital rights being taken away. As an ally to the LGBTQ+ community, I worry a great deal about the negative repercussions of HCR 3013 on same-sex couples and families.

I strongly urge you to recommend a DO NOT PASS on HCR 3013 and do what is best for ALL North Dakota families.

Anne Williamson  
Minot, ND

Testimony in Opposition - HCR 3013 - Rachel Richter Lordemann

March 11, 2025

Chairman Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this testimony in opposition to HCR 3013.

I am a proud, lifelong North Dakotan, dedicated to building my career and my family here. Nothing has made me feel less pride in my home state than HCR 3013. That the resolution has even made it this far in the legislative process is disappointing and disheartening.

HCR 3013 is a piece of legislation that functionally serves no purpose other than to cause division and alienate LGBTQ+ individuals in our state.

There is no legitimate means for the North Dakota State Legislature to challenge a Supreme Court Decision. As you know, the Supreme Court may only overturn a decision through constitutional amendment or a new ruling. This resolution does neither of those.

The only thing HCR 3013 *does* accomplish is to send a message that our LGBTQ+ friends, family, neighbors, and community members are not welcome in North Dakota. It sends a message that their marriages and families are not valued the same as those of straight couples.

I, along with the majority of North Dakotans, firmly disagree with that message and I urge you to vote for a Do Not Pass Recommendation.

Let's start spreading a new message to LGBTQ+ North Dakotans - you are welcome, you are loved, and you are essential to the fabric of our communities. We're proud to call you neighbors.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Rachel Richter Lordemann, District 45, West Fargo

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HCR 3013. I strongly believe that North Dakotans aspire for our state to be a safe and welcoming place for families and young people to build their lives. It is imperative that we uphold the values of kindness and inclusivity that we pride ourselves on. Resolutions like HCR 3013, and other anti-LGBTQIA+ bills strive to target and hurt members of our communities. That is unacceptable.

I am increasingly concerned that our legislators are disregarding these values by enacting legislation that targets and marginalizes a specific community. Our state's ability to recruit and retain professionals is crucial, and creating a hostile environment for any group makes North Dakota an unsafe place. As a heterosexual, cisgender, white woman, I feel that North Dakota is not a safe space for those who differ from me. This is not the message we want to convey, especially given the volatile and hateful national rhetoric. I hope that our Democrat, Independent, and Republican legislators recognize this and understand that we do not want such divisive rhetoric in our state. We want to attract people by demonstrating the values of North Dakota.

Moreover, I have serious, research-based concerns about the implications of this legislation. Studies show that over 40% of LGBTQIA+ youth have considered suicide. Imagine the pain these young individuals experience when faced with hateful rhetoric and state-sanctioned discrimination. As a parent of three active and strong students, I am deeply committed to their well-being and happiness. These bills endanger not only my children but also their peers, making our state a perilous place to live. I cannot imagine that any legislator truly desires such outcomes for our state.

Lastly, I want to share a poignant discussion my family had over dinner. We reflected on how our society could have progressed further if historical injustices such as slavery, Native American genocide, and war had been avoided. The loss of life, skill, energy, and knowledge has undeniably held us back. Similarly, this legislation threatens to stifle a whole community, pushing our society backward. Every individual has something valuable to contribute, and I firmly believe that North Dakotans want everyone to be included and valued. Please reflect on the direction we want our state to take and whether we will succumb to the angry and cruel national rhetoric.

I urge you to be the voice of reason and compassion by voting in opposition of HCR 3013

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Benton  
701.412.7917  
clbenton@hotmail.com

March 11, 2025

My name is Billy Burleigh and I am a resident of Twin Falls, Idaho. I use to work as a hydraulic systems engineer. In the assembly of a system, obviously, there are male parts and there are female parts. The system can not be assembled by the coupling to two male components, nor by the assembly of two female components. It does not work - it won't work. Such a configuration can not be made – it can not be physically assembled.

In taking biology into consideration, a male is wonderfully made with certain physical characteristics. And likewise, a woman is wonderfully made with certain physical characteristics. Marriage between a man and a woman works, and the fruit of such marriage is children. The marriage between a man and a man, or between a woman and a woman, does not work, and there is no fruit from such couplings.

I support bill HCR 3013, and I ask for your support of this bill as well.

Respectfully,

Billy Burleigh

Twin Falls, Idaho

To Whom It May Concern,

I ask that you kindly vote to oppose the HB 3013 to be presented on 3/12/2025 to the Senate. The reasoning in which this bill stands on, our original constitution, directly contradicts what our constitution calls out to be the most important American right, the freedom to choose.

This bill indicates that the decision of Obergefell v Hodges was not respecting the decision of the founding fathers of our constitution when there no factual validity to that statement. It also calls out that this causes collateral damage to other areas such as "our religious liberty" which fails to acknowledge that the churches themselves have deemed same sex marriages valid. The church in which we acknowledge is still the purest form of religion.

I would ask that you, as representatives, focus on instead what your desired outcome is. Is it a loving and healthy marriage? Is it a home that fosters love? Or is to control what you believe to be "best" without consideration of the uniqueness in the ways to obtain your desired state. The end goal is healthy and loving marriage, and no set gender definitions will provide that, that I can say for certain.

I appreciate your time and ask that you seriously ask yourself what the end goal is.. and when you've come to that answer I ask that you oppose this bill knowing that's best.

Chairperson and members of the committee:

I strongly urge you to oppose HCR 3013. I have family, many friends and neighbors who will be directly and negatively impacted if this should pass.

In a broader scope, if passed, HCR 3013 sends a clear message to someone thinking about moving to North Dakota; that being many people are not welcome here.

North Dakota is better than this.

Sincerely,

Kay Schwarzwalter



Dear, North Dakota Legislative Assembly  
cc: MassResistance

As a citizen of Alberta, Canada, a hopefully soon to be American citizen of the fabulous 51st state, I would urge you to overturn Obergefell. Having spent most of my life in the hopefully soon to be 51st state and having developed a close connection to North Dakota by benefitting from the experience of spending 30 days in the Minot County Jail in the glorious 39th state in 2002, after illegally crossing the border to go picket an abortuary in Wisconsin, the otherwise lovely 30th state and before Obergefell became the law of your land; I have acquired an appreciation for the benefits of a society that rejects gender and sexual perversion vs a society that embraces such aberrations.

Here in Canada we need to become the 51st state because we have become so sexually confused, thanks to our celebration of LGBT, we have lost the ability to govern ourselves. Unlike President Donald Trump who has acquired enough wisdom to figure out people are born male and female and this biological reality is unchangeable; our soon to be ex-Governor Justin Trudeau believes Bruce Jenner is a woman and that people like Bruce can switch their genders day to day to approximately 50 or more different variations depending on their mood. This explains why Justin is unfit to hold office either as a Prime Minister or as a governor. In actual fact if Justin can't figure out what a male and female is, he is probably not capable of doing anything more complicated than living in his mother's basement.

In Canada the homosexuals claimed that our government needed to let them "marry" eachother because it was the "loving" and "tolerant" thing to do. Marriage in reality is given to us by God. Marriage is a union between a man and a woman and is designed to be a life long union and a safe place to bring children into the world.

***"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24***

Governments really have no authority to change this reality and both Canada's and America's attempts to redefine marriage have been an absolute failure. For all the screaming, few homosexuals choose to actually try marrying eachother. The sham homosexual marriages that do happen, seldom last long. In Canada's case (and I am sure in America's case as well) domestic violence and multiple partner situations are rampant. The Mark Regnerus *New Family Structures Study* from the University of Texas, Austin definitively revealed children do worse by every metric when they are placed in sodomitic households.

After getting to desecrate marriage, homosexuals in Canada were not placated. They insist every year on marching down the streets of Toronto with their private parts hanging out for all the public to see. While they call their junk hanging out "free speech," the sodomites actively hijack our courts and law enforcement to use fines and even imprisonment to silence Christians who disagree with their public antics.

With all of the above in mind I urge you to vote whenever possible against all things homosexual and especially against their specious definition of marriage.

Sincerely,  
Bill Whatcott  
Box 9, Site 5, RR2  
Lacombe, AB, Canada (soon to be fabulous 51st state)  
T4L-2N2  
(403) 598-0578

Jesus said: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."  
John 14:6

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to HCR3013.

**What purpose does this resolution bring other than to TAKE AWAY the civil rights of individuals?**

Regardless of your religious beliefs, the government's role is to protect the civil rights of ALL citizens, and marriage is a fundamental civil right. There should be separation of church and state because as elected officials, you are duty bound to remain neutral and ensure that all citizens are treated equally under the law.

The state has a responsibility to recognize marriages as a civil institution. **Marriage is not just a religious sacrament; it is also a legal contract** that provides benefits and protections under the law which include tax breaks, inheritance rights, healthcare benefits, and child custody arrangements.

I do not believe this resolution comes from a place that has good intention. What do you stand to gain from supporting it?

**Love without condition. Talk without bad intention. Give without a reason. Care for people without expectation.**

Live and let live. North Dakotans deserve better than this.

Angela Kritzberger  
Hillsboro, ND

I write you today to express my strong opposition to banning same-sex marriage in North Dakota. It is imperative that we recognize the significance of equality and human rights for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Marriage is a fundamental human right, as confirmed by the United States Supreme Court in the landmark case *\*Obergefell v. Hodges\** (2015), which established that same-sex couples have the constitutional right to marry. The Court noted that the right to marry is inherent in the liberty of the person and is a vital part of the life experience.

Research indicates that allowing same-sex marriage has numerous social benefits. A study published in the *\*American Journal of Public Health\** demonstrates that legalizing same-sex marriage is associated with significant reductions in suicide rates among LGBTQ+ youth (Hatzenbuehler, M. L., et al., 2017). This is especially important considering that LGBTQ+ individuals face higher rates of mental health issues due to societal stigma and discrimination. Furthermore, a study in the *\*International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health\** found that same-sex marriage legalization led to improved mental health outcomes among LGBTQ+ individuals, including decreased feelings of stigma (Kelley, M. L., et al., 2019).

Banning same-sex marriage perpetuates inequality and discrimination. Research indicates that these bans correlate with increased rates of mental health issues among LGBTQ+ individuals. The *\*American Psychological Association\** has acknowledged that such bans contribute to the marginalization of this community and lead to social stigma (American Psychological Association, 2019).

From an economic perspective, maintaining the right to same-sex marriage could generate significant benefits for our state. According

to a report from the Williams Institute, same-sex marriage in North Dakota could bring approximately \$4.3 million to the state's economy through tourism, weddings, and associated expenditures (Williams Institute, 2013). Additionally, a study published in the journal *Economics Letters* found that states with legalized same-sex marriage experienced increased economic activity, including higher spending on weddings and tourism (Badgett, M. V. L., et al., 2019).

Furthermore, inclusive policies have been shown to attract diverse talent and foster economic growth. The *National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce* reported that companies with inclusive policies often outperform their competitors financially, highlighting the economic advantages of embracing diversity (NGLCC, 2020).

Moreover, the World Health Organization recognizes that discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals presents a public health issue, emphasizing that "homophobia and transphobia impose an unnecessary burden on affected individuals, families, and communities" (World Health Organization, 2021). By supporting marriage equality, our state stands against such discrimination and promotes a healthier society.

Lastly, the impact of marriage on family stability and well-being cannot be understated. Research from the *Journal of Marriage and Family* indicates that marriage contributes to overall stability and satisfaction, benefiting not just couples but also their children (Amato, P. R., 2015). Therefore, denying same-sex couples the right to marry directly impacts family structures and well-being.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the evidence and implications of banning same-sex marriage in North Dakota. It is time to acknowledge that every individual deserves the right to marry the

person they love. By opposing this ban, we can move toward a more inclusive and equitable society.

Don't make our state one that is intolerant to the pursuit of happiness for all humans.

Respectfully,  
Sarah Wolf

Sources:

1. Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644 (2015).
2. Hatzenbuehler, M. L., et al. (2017). "Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage and Mental Health Outcomes of Same-Sex Couples in the United States." \*American Journal of Public Health\*.
3. Kelley, M. L., et al. (2019). "The Impact of Same-Sex Marriage on Mental and Physical Health: Evidence from the U.S." \*International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health\*.
4. American Psychological Association. (2019). "The Impact of Marriage Equality on Mental Health."
5. Williams Institute. (2013). "The Economic Impact of Marriage Equality in North Dakota."
6. Badgett, M. V. L., et al. (2019). "The Economic Impact of Same-Sex Marriage on U.S. States." \*Economics Letters\*.
7. National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). (2020). "The Economic Impact of LGBTQ+ Inclusion."
8. World Health Organization. (2021). "Understanding and Addressing Discrimination Against LGBTQ+ Individuals."
9. Amato, P. R. (2015). "The Impact of Family Formation on Family Stability and Well-being." \*Journal of Marriage and Family\*.



### Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution 3013

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action  
March 12, 2025

Good afternoon, Madam Chair Larson and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Mark Jorritsma, and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3013 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this resolution.

In June of 2015, SCOTUS rendered a 5-4 decision in the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision that the Fourteenth Amendment requires all states to grant same-sex marriages. There have been numerous challenges to this decision since that time, and given the current composition of SCOTUS, reversal of this decision is certainly not outside the realm of possibility. However, the decision still stands today, and I will not go into the legal aspects of same-sex marriage public policy.

I would like to speak about North Dakota and our deeply held values. The family was God-ordained at the creation of the world, and it forms the foundation of our society. From families come communities, from communities come societies, and from societies come nations and their governmental structures. It has been shown over the centuries and within a multitude of civilizations that family is the basis for a flourishing culture and society.

Given our state's expressed values in many matters of public policy in recent years, it's safe to say that the vast majority of North Dakotans see the hub of the family wheel being the marriage of husband and wife. This was certainly the case when our country and state were founded upon Judeo-Christian beliefs. These beliefs hold that marriage was created by God and is the basis for our society. Further, we believe human sexuality was designed and intended for our good within the bond of a committed, lifelong marriage between a man and woman.

We support legislation that advocates for biblically based marriages, and we oppose policy that encourages individuals to pursue alternative definitions of marriage, given that it undermines

---

1515 Burnt Boat Dr., Suite C-148, Bismarck, ND 58503  
[mark@Ndfamilyalliance.org](mailto:mark@Ndfamilyalliance.org)  
701-355-6425  
[www.ndfamilyalliance.org](http://www.ndfamilyalliance.org)



# NORTH DAKOTA

## *Family Alliance* LEGISLATIVE ACTION

traditional marriage values and the family as an institution – something Obergefell has certainly done. House Concurrent Resolution 3013 seeks to reaffirm the traditional definition of marriage, consistent with that of our country’s founding and consistent with the values we hold dear as North Dakotans. As a result, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you render a “DO PASS” on HCR 3013. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I’d be happy to stand for any questions.



Dear Chair Larson and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I strongly urge you to vote against HCR 3013. This resolution seeks to strip away rights from my family and many others who are close to me.

Growing up with my mom and her wife on one side, and my dad and his wife on the other, I've been blessed with not one, but two loving homes. My mom's same-sex marriage has never made me feel any less loved or valued. In fact, it's taught me the importance of love, acceptance, and equality.

It's disheartening to see so much hate and intolerance this legislative session. As someone who's lived in North Dakota their whole life, it's frustrating to feel like our state is actively working to make people feel like they don't belong.

Here's the truth: same-sex marriage is no different from any other marriage. It's about two people loving each other, committing to one another, and building a life together. So, I have to ask: why do you want to take away someone's right to choose who they marry? It doesn't affect you or your family.

I urge you to vote against HCR 3013 and stand up for loving families like mine. We deserve the same rights, respect, and dignity as any other family.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Gellsia Starlin

Dear Chair Larson and the Members of the Judiciary Committee, I am writing to urge a “Do Not Pass” on HCR 3013.

This resolution is extremely harmful and hurtful to so many of our fellow North Dakotans. I firmly believe HCR 3013 is an injunction against the religious liberties our great country affords us. Additionally, marriage as an institution has changed culturally throughout time and the insistence that *Obergefell v. Hodges* “arbitrarily and unjustly rejected the definition of marriage,” is troublesome.

I have always believed every American deserves the right to marry a partner regardless of their gender, biological or otherwise. I emphasize to you, the Judiciary Committee, the importance of freedom for the people of North Dakota and put into question HCR 3013’s emphasis on liberty. HCR 3013 only serves to push an agenda that limits the autonomy of individuals at the behest of the government. When the governmental entitlements of marriage are afforded to some but not all on the basis of something as arbitrary as gender, then all men are not created equal.

Furthermore, HCR 3013 disenfranchises the youth of America from successful and prosperous futures – the dream of building a family with legal recognition is a right all should be entitled. I know we all want the future generations of North Dakota to grow up happy, healthy, and hopeful to give back to their communities, but HCR 3013 severely impacts their ability to do so if they no longer have the equal opportunity to obtain a marriage license regardless of their romantic partner choice. I would hate to see the future children of North Dakota robbed of that freedom.

As a lifelong resident of North Dakota, I urge the Judiciary Committee to vote “DO NOT PASS” on HCR 3013. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Jayce Branden

Chairman Larson, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

3/11/25

I am writing in opposition to HCR 3013

HCR 3013 is an action to discriminate against the equal rights of citizens in North Dakota and America. Families are intact from the Marriage Equality Act. Destroying legal protections at this point is going to persecute citizens of America. Legal, emotional, and physical harm against citizens that a legal body is sworn to protect is unconscionable.

You are chasing people we need in our state away with this discrimination.

Respectfully vote no on HCR 3013

A Citizen Just Like You

Karen Anderson

Dear Chair Larson and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I strongly oppose House Concurrent Resolution 3013. My wife and I met in 2009 and were fortunate enough to get married in North Dakota in 2015. Our marriage doesn't affect anyone else, and it's disturbing that our rights are being debated.

We have the same rights as any other couple, and passing this resolution would strip us of those rights, granting them exclusively to other individuals. This goes against the fundamental principles of equality and justice.

As stated in our nation's Declaration of Independence, every individual has the unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These rights apply to all, not just some.

I urge you not to pass HCR 3013. It's crucial that we protect the rights of all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Annie Gagner

Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I respectfully submit my opposition to the House Concurrent Resolution 3013, which calls for the United States Supreme Court to restore the legal definition of marriage as exclusively a union between one man and one woman.

While I respect the religious views that inform this position, I must emphasize the importance of marriage as a civil institution. The legal recognition of marriage provides significant rights, benefits, and protections for all couples, including those related to taxation, inheritance, healthcare, and parental rights. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry effectively denies them access to these critical legal and economic protections. This is not just a matter of personal belief, but of ensuring fairness and equality under the law.

The Obergefell v. Hodges decision was a step forward in securing the civil rights of same-sex couples, ensuring that they, too, have the legal recognition and protections afforded to opposite-sex couples. Without the right to marry, same-sex couples may be excluded from important government benefits—such as joint tax filings, access to family health insurance, Social Security benefits, and the ability to make medical decisions for one another—placing them at a distinct disadvantage in society. Additionally, the lack of legal recognition can create uncertainty for children of same-sex couples, who may face challenges with custody or inheritance rights.

Furthermore, the argument that marriage is inherently about procreation disregards the fact that many marriages, regardless of the sexual orientation of the partners, do not involve childbearing. Marriage, in its fullest sense, is about the recognition of a committed relationship between two people, and the legal benefits associated with it should not be restricted to one specific type of union.

I urge you to recognize that the legal definition of marriage should reflect inclusivity, equality, and the fundamental rights of all individuals. Upholding marriage equality is not only a matter of dignity for same-sex couples, but it also ensures the protection of legal rights and societal benefits that contribute to the well-being of all families.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Christina Feldmann

Beach, ND

**Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013**

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013 - urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman. I believe that this resolution undermines fundamental principles of equality, personal freedom, and the progress our society has made in recognizing the dignity and rights of all individuals.

The Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) was a monumental step forward in recognizing the inherent dignity of same-sex couples and their right to marry. This decision affirmed that marriage is not a privilege to be granted selectively, but a fundamental right guaranteed to all people, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Reversing this decision would roll back the rights of millions of Americans and perpetuate harmful discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community.

Marriage is a personal and intimate decision that should be guided by love, respect, and commitment, not by government-imposed definitions. The United States was founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all, and efforts to restrict who can marry based on outdated and discriminatory views run contrary to these values. By denying same-sex couples the right to marry, we are telling them that their love and families are less worthy of recognition and protection under the law.

Moreover, restoring a definition of marriage as solely between one man and one woman would have serious negative consequences for countless families. It would jeopardize legal protections for same-sex couples and their children, affecting issues such as inheritance, health care, and adoption. These families deserve the same rights, respect, and recognition as any other family.

In addition, such a resolution would signal to future generations that discrimination based on sexual orientation is acceptable. It would send a message that some people are less deserving of equal treatment simply because of who they love. We cannot allow such divisiveness to undo the progress we've made in fostering a more inclusive and fair society.

I urge this committee to reject this resolution and stand firmly in favor of equality, fairness, and justice for all Americans. Let us continue to embrace the diversity of our nation and protect the rights of every individual to live and love freely without fear of discrimination.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my opposition to this resolution.

Sincerely,

Sean Payette

Concerned Fargo Resident

**House con-current resolution 3013**

My name is timothy Faller a lifetime resident of North Dakota that has been married for 59 years. I am in full support of the resolution. When I examine the definition of husband, it is defined as a man and wife as a woman and their union as a marriage. When a pastor, priest, Rabi, or person qualified to make confirmation of the relationship to join a man and a woman in marriage I fully support that action and definition.

I strongly support two men who want to form a partnership and similarly two women. I do not support calling the relationship a marriage and the reference to one being the husband and the other the wife when two men or two women establish a partnership. Another description of the union would be more acceptable and the partnership need not require pastoral concurrence.

Respectfully submitted

---

Timothy Faller

Esteemed Members of the 69th Legislative Assembly,

Our names are Mr. and Mrs. Cody and Sam Hazzard-Bradley and we are writing to you today in regards to our great concern regarding HCR 3013 and are strongly urging you to give HCR 3013 a "Do Not Pass" recommendation and to vote in opposition to this bill should it appear on the Senate floor.

We are greatly concerned as this bill is a violation of the rights and liberties of North Dakotans to choose to join with one another in legal congress and, as evidenced by the majority of testimonies for HCR 3013 being testimony "In Opposition" to the bill, is not actually representative of what the vast majority of North Dakotans actually want.

This bill is unnecessary, and, quite frankly, a waste of the time of the people of North Dakota. It seeks to say that the Legislators of the State of North Dakota presume to think that they understand more about the Constitutional Law of the United States of America than the literal experts that sit on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS).

Additionally, in 2022 the United States Congress passed H.R. 8404 - also known as the Respect for Marriage act which is generally explained on Congress.gov as an act that "provides statutory authority for same-sex and interracial marriages."

H.R. 8404 in conjunction with and in addition to Obergefell v. Hodges makes same-sex marriage the law of the land in our great country.

In addition to this, HCR 3013 is not only in opposition to the law of the land from multiple departments of the United States Legislative Branch of government, is not accurately the wish of the citizens of North Dakota and is in direct opposition to the Declaration of Independence which indicates that "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" are unalienable rights and marriage to a person of one's choosing regardless of your own sex or the sex of your chosen partner would be included within all three of these unalienable rights.

As such, we would like to again urge you to give a "Do Not Pass" recommendation on HCR 3013 and to vote in opposition of this bill should it appear on the Senate floor.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter and service to our state.

Respectfully,

Mr. and Mrs. Cody and Sam Hazzard-Bradley



**To the Honorable Members of the Senate,**

I am writing to you as a mother, a business owner, a community member, and a person who believes in the fundamental rights and dignity of all people. Today, I stand in firm opposition to the proposed legislation that seeks to define marriage as solely between one man and one woman. This bill is not just a legal matter—it is a direct attack on the lives, identities, and futures of LGBTQ+ individuals, including my own daughter.

My daughter is 20 years old. She is kind, intelligent, and deeply compassionate. She dreams, she works hard, and she contributes to the world around her. But most importantly, she deserves the same rights and recognition under the law as anyone else. To even debate whether her love, her relationships, and her future family should be acknowledged and protected by the government is not just disheartening—it is devastating.

This is not about politics. It is about real people. It is about my daughter, your neighbors, your constituents, and the countless families who will be directly harmed by this legislation. Laws should be built on principles of justice and equality, not exclusion and discrimination.

Restricting marriage rights does not strengthen families—it fractures them. It tells LGBTQ+ individuals that their love is lesser, their commitments unworthy, and their existence something to be debated rather than respected. It sends a message to young people like my daughter that their government does not see them as equals. And I refuse to let that stand without speaking up.

As a mother, I will always fight for my daughter's right to live, love, and build a future free from discrimination. I urge you to reject this bill and stand on the right side of history. Marriage is about love, commitment, and family—not government-imposed limitations on who deserves it.

Please, I implore you: do not let this bill pass. Do not let my daughter, and countless others like her, be told by their government that they are second-class citizens.

With hope and urgency,

Andrea Grigsby

1305 N 14th ST

Bismarck, ND 58501

701-595-9554

**To the Honorable Members of the Senate,**

I am writing to you not just as a concerned citizen, but as a father. A father to a daughter who is 20 years old, a young woman who is thoughtful, hardworking, and deeply compassionate. A daughter who also happens to be a lesbian.

As a computer programmer and an active contributor to my community, I work every day to solve problems, to build systems that create solutions, and to ensure that people have access to the tools they need to succeed. But no amount of code, no line of logic, can make sense of the cruelty behind this proposed legislation.

This bill, which seeks to restrict marriage to only between one man and one woman, is not just an outdated idea—it is a direct attack on my daughter's future. It tells her that her government does not recognize her as equal to her peers. It tells her that the love she will one day find and commit to is less valuable, less real, and less worthy of legal protection.

I cannot accept that. And neither should you.

My daughter is not an abstract political debate. She is a person. She is my child. And she deserves the same rights as any other person in this country. Passing this bill will not strengthen families—it will tear them apart. It will tell parents like me that our children are not valued, that their futures are not worth protecting, and that their happiness matters less.

I ask you: what is gained by taking away rights from those who only want to love and be loved? What purpose does this bill serve beyond exclusion? If the goal is to protect families, then let's protect *all* families—including the ones built by LGBTQ+ individuals who deserve to marry and be recognized just like anyone else.

As a father, I will not stay silent while my daughter's rights are put up for debate. I urge you to vote against this bill and stand on the side of justice, equality, and the future we should all want for our children.

Sincerely,

Ken Grigsby  
1305 N 14th ST  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-400-0381

Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Randi Monley. I am a citizen of North Dakota residing in Minot's District 5. I am requesting a NO VOTE on HCR 3013 as presented or amended.

I could give you a ton of reasons why I oppose this bill. I'm sure there is testimony that covers those reasons from other North Dakotans, but it seems that most legislators do not care what North Dakotans or their constituents think or say. I will leave you with this: I care about all of the people who reside in North Dakota. I see each individual person for who they are and where they are. I wish that you all could do that, as well.

Please NO on HCR 3013..

Randi Monley  
Minot, ND

March 11, 2025

Senate Judiciary Committee

**Re: Testimony in opposition to HCR 3013**

Dear Chairperson Diane Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HCR 3013, a resolution urging the US Supreme Court to redefine marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. This resolution seeks to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), a ruling that affirmed same-sex couples are entitled to the same dignity, legal protections and recognition as opposite-sex couples.

This resolution is not only regressive and divisive but openly legislates discrimination as well as seeks to isolate and harm a group of individuals that only wish to enjoy the same rights and protections opposite-sex couples have enjoyed for centuries.

In a time where North Dakotans are asking, "how do we keep our young people from leaving the state and encourage more families to settle here?", perhaps the answer has been staring most of you in the face for a very long time. Our young adults are leaving for more welcoming states where opportunities and equality abound. Young families are turned away by bigoted attitudes and "not in my backyard" sentiments. This state will not continue to prosper if its laws and a very vocal minority espouse such intolerant, hate-filled ways. Bills and resolutions such as HCR 3013 openly defy the will of the majority of ND citizens who have affirmed more forcefully each time they are asked: "do you support same-sex marriage"? YES. Resoundingly, a majority say YES.

As a nearly life-long citizen of this state, I find myself wondering more with every passing day if this is really where I want to spend the rest of my life. With each new, draconian bill, however, I find myself looking for a different place to call home for myself and those I love.

ND Legislators, you've said time and time again that your priority this session is "property tax reform", yet your actions speak otherwise. You are wasting valuable time and resources fighting to take rights away from the residents of this state instead of doing that which you were elected to do. It's time to stop legislating your restrictive personal beliefs and start focusing on promoting economic growth, property tax relief, healthcare reform and policies that encourage people from all over to be welcomed to our state to share in the potential of all it has to offer.

The choice is yours. I urge you to give a resounding DO NOT PASS to HCR 3013.

Sincerely,



Stacie M Hansen  
District 24 resident

I am writing in favor of a **ÒDO NOT PASSÓ** for house bill 3013. As I look through the number of testimonies I see so many who do not favor this bill which is lovely to see people advocating for our state to not discriminate against the citizens of our state. Marriage is something that all people should be able to have in their life if they choose regardless of their gender preference in their relationship. I do not feel the government should have a say who people can marry and instead should focus our taxpayer dollars on supporting the people who call this state home versus push people out.

Dear North Dakota Senate Representatives,

My name is Joelle Klabo, I reside in Horace, North Dakota. I am writing this testimony in opposition to HCR-3013, a concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

I have struggled to find the words to put into this testimony since the decision came from the House of Representatives late last month. This is not something I have ever imagined myself having to do or wanting to do. Although this is viewed as just a concurrent resolution in legislature and a posturing for "voter base support", this is a message to the entire people of America that we do not want equal rights for all people in North Dakota. Fundamental principles within our own country's founding documents, The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, even cite fundamental rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Support of this bill goes directly against those basic unalienable rights. Happiness does not look the same for everyone that walks this earth. Happiness does not mean the same thing across all people. Reasons for supporting this resolution such as political affiliation or religious affiliation do not justify the support of removing rights from a certain group of people for who they love, human rights should never be political and religious views do not belong in the state but need to stay within the church. People just want to be happy in a world that continues to spread hate no matter who you are.

I am a normal 28-year-old woman who goes to work every day, supports my family, and supports my community. My partner and I are not pushing our views on people, and we accept others for who they are no matter what. At the end of the day, we just want to be left alone to live a life that is full of love and share life's simple but precious moments together while having the same rights as others.

I hope that the Senate group can reflect on how you would feel if you were in a position similar to this. Perhaps the law did not accept or recognize your marriage on the basis of age difference, race differences, or religious differences. How would that make you feel?

I have faith in the common sense of the Senate that you will know this does not help our state in any way, it will only divide us more.

Best Regards,

Joelle

Dear Members of the North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR3013, which seeks to urge the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

Marriage is a deeply personal and significant commitment that should be accessible to all consenting adults, regardless of gender. The notion that marriage should be exclusively between a man and a woman is rooted in outdated and discriminatory beliefs that have no place in modern society. It is discriminating against our friends, families, neighbors and your colleagues in the legislature. It will send a message gay people that they are not welcome in our state, a view that is not held by the majority of North Dakotans.

In addition to the moral and social implications, it is important to consider the legal rights and benefits that marriage confers. Marriage is not, in fact, a gift from God. It's a legal commitment between consenting adults that has implications in everyday life of North Dakotans. Married couples enjoy numerous legal protections and benefits, including:

- The right to inherit a spouse's property upon death.
- The ability to file joint federal and state tax returns, which can result in significant tax benefits.
- Access to a spouse's health, car, and liability insurance at family rates.
- The right to receive a spouse's Social Security, pension, worker's compensation, or disability benefits.
- The ability to make medical decisions on behalf of a spouse in emergencies.
- The right to sue for a spouse's wrongful death or loss of consortium

I urge you to consider the harmful implications of HCR3013 and vote "do not pass" on this resolution. By doing so, you will be affirming your commitment to equality, justice, and the protection of civil rights for all North Dakotans and affirming the legal rights of married couples in our state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Austin Cote

District 27 constituent.



*Representing the Diocese of Fargo  
and the Diocese of Bismarck*

103 South Third Street  
Suite 10  
Bismarck ND 58501  
701-223-2519  
ndcatholic.org  
ndcatholic@ndcatholic.org

**To:** Senate Judiciary Committee  
**From:** David Tamisiea, Executive Director  
**Subject:** House Concurrent Resolution 3013  
**Date:** March 12, 2025

The North Dakota Catholic Conference supports House Concurrent Resolution 3013 insofar as it urges the United States Supreme Court to restore the legal definition of marriage to be exclusively a union between one man and one woman.

Marriage by its very nature is a union between a man and a woman. It is not just a social construct that stands for any relationship whatsoever between human beings, and it is more than a mere contract. Rather, marriage is a fundamental human and social institution established by God (Gen 1:27-28, 2:18-24; Matt 19:4-6).

Marriage was not created by the government nor by any particular religious group. This is evident from the fact that marriage between a man and a woman is found in every culture, throughout the world, across all of human history. While the government can regulate marriage, and religions can celebrate and sanctify marriage, neither can “redefine” marriage to be something it is not.

Since marriage has a nature and a design, it also has inherent purposes. It is almost self-evident that marriage is for the good of the spouses and for the bringing forth and raising children. No ideology can erase the fact that marriage is between a man and a woman, who by a mutual and total self-gift to each other, form an intimate communion of persons. In this way, the husband and wife form an exclusive bond and union, both to support and perfect each other, and to cooperate with God in procreating and raising children.

Marriage as a natural institution with these unitive and procreative purposes is rooted in the natural sexual complementarity of being male and being female. The sexual differences between a man and a woman run much deeper than cultural stereotypes - e.g., men can be kind and women can be strong. Being male or being female affects a person at the deepest levels of his or her existence: genetically, biologically, emotionally, psychologically, and socially. These deep-seated sexual differences make it possible for a man and a woman to unite in a full and complementary way.

Same-sex unions, on the other hand, lack the natural sexual complementarity found in marriage that is necessary for full union and procreative fruitfulness. Homosexual acts “close the sexual act to the gift of life and do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual



complementarity” that is at the very foundation of marriage (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2357). Homosexual couples may have genuine love and commitment to each other, but this love and commitment does not, and cannot, make their relationship a marriage.

The Supreme Court in the *Obergefell* decision wrongfully arrogated to itself the authority to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples. This decision is not rooted in the truth about marriage. Regardless of what the Supreme Court ruled, the nature of marriage between one man and one woman remains unchanged and unchangeable. The *Obergefell* decision was a tragic mistake that has caused great confusion and undermined the institution of marriage. It is also harmful to the common good because marriage is the foundation for the family, and the family is the basic cell of society. And as St. John Paul II famously once said, “the future of humanity passes by way of the family” (*Familiaris Consortio* 86).

Sacred Scripture demands that Christians “speak the truth in love” (Eph 4:15). Our position is not motivated by animosity toward persons with a homosexual orientation but rather in a commitment to speak truthfully about the nature of marriage, what it is and what it is not, out of love for all.

In closing, let me say that the Catholic Church insists that society respect the dignity of all persons, including those with same-sex attraction. Persons with same-sex attraction have a right to, and deserve our respect, love, and understanding. We strongly condemn attacks, abuse, and unjust discrimination based on sexual orientation. Upholding the dignity of all persons is not, however, inconsistent with upholding the essential institution of marriage.

We urge a **Do Pass** recommendation on House Concurrent Resolution 3013.

HCR 3013

Greetings Chairman Larson and members of Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jill McDonald, I am a writing as a private citizen of Glenburn, ND. I am in opposition of HCR 3013 and encourage a no vote. This bill has left LGBTQ individuals in our communities feeling unsafe. North Dakotans deserve better than this bill. It creates a lack of safety in our communities that we are constantly trying to recruit folks to move to in order to fill countless open positions.

Sincerely,

Jill McDonald

ND Legislators

Bill 3013. Let us be simplistic and clear. This issue is not a religious issue. This is simply the issue of equal rights for all. Please stand up for equal rights.

Our Constitution states:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.-

Barb Solberg  
Minot

March 11, 2025

To the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: HCR 3013

We are writing in opposition to HCR 3013 and strongly urge a “Do not pass” vote on this resolution.

Our family members and friends and all ND citizens should have the freedom to choose their lifelong partners, and have their marriages recognized by our state. This resolution accomplishes nothing and creates divisiveness in our communities.

Thank you,

Juanita and Kim Hocking

March 11, 2025

Thomas French  
Fargo ND  
District 44

Chair Larson and Members of the North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HCR 3013. I grew up in Mapleton, ND, attending Mapleton Elementary, West Fargo High School, and graduating from NDSU in 2013. My husband and I have been raised in this community and have lifelong connections with the people we've met. We live close to our grandparents, parents, siblings, and five of our nieces and nephews. We recently got married and chose to stay in North Dakota because of our love for this community and the support we feel here.

After reading HCR 3013, I am deeply hurt by the implication that our marriage undermines anyone else's. Churches still have the right to define marriages as they see fit. However, the Supreme Court's decision in Obergefell v. Hodges ensures that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the right to marry the person they love. It is painful to feel unsupported by the state we grew up in and where our family continues to grow. Raised in the Catholic faith, I was taught to respect everyone and listen with an open heart. This resolution would harm couples and the future of North Dakota as more valuable residents seek a state that welcomes them.

Same-sex couples should be able to experience culture and religion equally and not have to watch others experience joy and fulfillment from the outside looking in. Our families and friends were there to witness our vows, just like any other wedding and now if this resolution passes we face difficult decisions whether we feel safe to live here or not. My husband and I are in our mid-thirties and have heard every justification for being treated differently, but none change the fact that we are still human and contributing members of this community. Enough damage has been done by this resolution being passed in the House.

Sending the message that same-sex couples aren't safe here is dangerous and does not serve North Dakotans' best interests. Please vote in opposition to HCR 3013.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas French

Dear Chairman Klemin and members of the ND House Judiciary Committee—

I urge you to vote NAY on HB 3013.

First off, thank you all for your time and service to our great state of North Dakota. It is appreciated.

I am a 46 year old straight, christian, divorced but recently engaged, father to two daughters. For some reason I find the need to explain my life as if it will bear more weight with your decision, but the truth is, it shouldn't matter. Just like it shouldn't matter who a person marries in this state. (so long as both of age of course)

I have read through so many testimonies tonight that my heart just hurts. Not for the hate that has been spewed by those in favor, but from the sadness and loss of those that are opposed. The things they have had to go through when a partner dies, or goes into a hospital, or a car accident. Most things we would never think would be issues in our lives when you spend a life with someone you love. All would be solved just by allowing them to wed the person they love the most. For most of you, in your life, this is a "non-issue" but for many, being in favor of this bill is a big "not wanted" in their faces. I cannot imagine not being able to marry the person I love the most because a state decided I couldn't. It just isn't right.

In a time where government efficiency is the talk of every news station, podcast, and coffee shop, I am surprised that you have colleagues who think this is what their constituents want your time spent on right now. There are by far more important things to address and it concerns me that those that have sponsored this bill do not have the state's best interest in mind.

It is the year 2025. North Dakota has the ability to LEAD other states by showing that red states can be inclusive, they can be welcoming, and they can be inviting. That is what the citizens of this great state want. Please follow suit and vote NO.

Thank you for your time.

Marc Hedlund  
Fargo, ND

**Personal Testimony: A Journey from Gay to Straight through Marriage In Jesus Christ**

My name is Daren Mehl, and I testify for you today as a pastor, a husband, and a father, testifying to the transformative power of Jesus Christ. I was once a gay-identified man, living a lifestyle I believed to be unchangeable. My wife, Rhoda, was also identified within the LGBTQ+ community as a queer woman. We met through a mutual acquaintance—someone I once dated and she was dating at the time—and, as God ordained, I proposed to her on July 11, 2004. Rhoda knowing I was sexually attracted to men, but not women, she still moved forward in our relationship as we married on December 5, 2005. I married the woman I loved in spite of having gay attractions. I gave the gay sexual orientation to God to figure out for us. We were blessed with our first child, a son, in the Winter of 2013, and our daughter in the Spring of 2015.

Despite being married, I still had sexual attractions to men until the seventh year of our marriage when I encountered the living God in a radical way. Through faith in Jesus Christ, I experienced complete transformation, not only spiritually but also in my desires and identity. My romantic and erotic attractions to men were utterly eliminated by the power of the truth and love of God. My testimony stands as irrefutable evidence that sexual orientation is not immutable—it is fluid and can change. Jesus was my counselor who healed me.

---

*Don't you wives realize that your husbands might be saved because of you? And don't you husbands realize that your wives might be saved because of you? - 1 Corinthians 7:1*

---

Again, I emphasize this: as a gay man, I had every right under the law to marry a woman, just as any heterosexual man. There was no equality under the law for LGBTQ+ as far as marriage. My wife, as a queer woman, had every right under the law to marry a man, and she did! The fundamental nature of marriage was never about sexual orientation but about the biological reality of a man and a woman forming a union to carry on procreation of families, the bedrock of civilized society and nations.

The Obergefell v. Hodges ruling was not about granting a right that same-sex attracted individuals never had; it was about redefining an institution that was already accessible to all based on sex, not orientation.

**Legal Argument: The Flawed Foundation of Obergefell**

The Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* rested on the false premise that sexual orientation is an immutable characteristic akin to race or sex. However, this is contradicted by extensive evidence demonstrating that sexual orientation is fluid. Unlike race or biological sex, which are unchangeable, individuals can and do experience shifts in their sexual attractions, as my own life and many other's attests.

Moreover, the ruling bypassed the democratic process and overrode the will of the states and their citizens, stripping them of their authority to define marriage. The decision improperly treated the Due Process Clause as a source of new substantive rights, a dangerous precedent that has led to government coercion of religious individuals and institutions who uphold the biblical and historical definition of marriage.

By restoring the definition of marriage to its natural and legal foundation—one man and one woman—Resolution 3013 seeks to return this matter to the states and the people, where it rightfully belongs.

**Religious Freedom & Conscience Clauses: The Suppression of Religious Liberty Post-*Obergefell***

The *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision did not merely redefine marriage; it set the stage for systematic suppression of religious liberty, placing the government in direct conflict with those who hold to biblical and traditional views of marriage. By elevating sexual orientation to a status akin to race or sex, the ruling has been used to coerce individuals, businesses, and religious institutions into affirming same-sex marriage against their deeply held convictions.

**1. The Weaponization of Anti-Discrimination Laws Against Christians**

Since *Obergefell*, we have seen a sharp increase in legal action, fines, and social punishment directed at Christians who refuse to participate in or endorse same-sex marriage:

- Jack Phillips (*Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, 2018) – Phillips, a Christian cake artist, was sued for refusing to create a custom wedding cake for a same-sex wedding. Despite winning a narrow Supreme Court ruling, he continues to face relentless legal harassment for his faith-based refusal to express messages contrary to biblical teachings.
- Barronelle Stutzman (*Arlene's Flowers v. Washington*, 2021) – Stutzman, a florist, was sued by the State of Washington and fined for declining to create floral



arrangements for a same-sex wedding due to her Christian beliefs. She was forced into retirement after years of costly litigation.

- Melissa and Aaron Klein (Sweet Cakes by Melissa, 2015) – This Christian couple was fined \$135,000 by the state of Oregon for refusing to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding. Their business was driven to bankruptcy.
- Catholic Charities Adoption Agencies (Multiple States, Post-*Obergefell*) – In several states, Christian adoption agencies were forced to shut down because they refused to place children with same-sex couples, violating their deeply held beliefs about family and parenting.

## **2. *Obergefell* Created a “Zero-Sum” Conflict Between LGBT Rights and Religious Freedom**

Before *Obergefell*, marriage was a state-level issue, and religious institutions and individuals had the freedom to operate according to their conscience. However, the Supreme Court’s redefinition of marriage created an unavoidable conflict:

- If same-sex marriage is a constitutional right, then religious objections are treated as unlawful discrimination.
- If religious freedom is protected, then individuals must have the right to refuse participation in events that violate their faith.

This has resulted in a massive legal shift, where Christians are increasingly viewed as bigots rather than conscientious objectors. People of faith are now being forced to choose between their livelihoods and their beliefs.

## **3. The Expansion of *Obergefell* into Compelled Speech and Thought Control**

The aftermath of *Obergefell* has not been limited to participation in same-sex weddings. It has expanded into a broad campaign to enforce ideological conformity, silencing dissent, and punishing those who uphold biblical truths about marriage and sexuality.

- Compelled Speech in the Workplace – Employees have been fired or disciplined for refusing to use preferred pronouns or for expressing traditional views on marriage.
- Corporate & Government Censorship – Tech companies and financial institutions have de-platformed Christian organizations and businesses that oppose LGBTQ ideology.
- Educational Indoctrination – Christian schools, colleges, and seminaries have faced pressure to conform or risk losing accreditation and funding.

#### **4. The Urgent Need for Conscience Protections & Legislative Action**

Resolution 3013 seeks to reverse the damage caused by *Obergefell* and restore marriage to its rightful place, protecting the rights of individuals and institutions to live out their faith without fear of government retaliation.

- Congress and state legislatures must enact robust religious liberty protections, ensuring that no person is forced to affirm or participate in practices that violate their conscience.
- The Supreme Court must reconsider *Obergefell*, recognizing that it has led to a massive infringement on First Amendment rights.
- Christians must stand firm, advocating for legal safeguards that preserve the ability to worship, speak, and live according to biblical truth without facing legal and financial ruin.

#### **Religious Liberty Must Be Restored**

The promise of religious freedom is enshrined in the First Amendment, yet *Obergefell* has systematically eroded that freedom in favor of a government-enforced sexual ideology. Christians must not be forced to choose between their livelihoods and their faith, nor should the government dictate what is and isn't acceptable belief.

Restoring the definition of marriage to one man and one woman is not just a matter of morality—it is a matter of preserving fundamental religious liberties for generations to come.

#### **Scientific Evidence: The Reality of Sexual Orientation Fluidity**

Contrary to the assertions of *Obergefell*, research consistently demonstrates that sexual orientation is not a fixed trait. Dr. Lisa Diamond, a researcher and proponent of LGBTQ rights, has acknowledged that sexual orientation is fluid for many individuals, particularly among women<sup>i</sup>. Studies show that changes in sexual attraction occur due to various life circumstances, personal growth, and spiritual transformation.<sup>ii</sup>

The existence of individuals who once identified as homosexual but are now living content heterosexual lives—including myself and many others<sup>iii</sup>—directly contradicts the claim that same-sex attraction is immutable. This fluidity undermines the classification of sexual orientation as a protected civil rights category.

### **Biblical Foundations: The Consequences of Redefining Marriage**

The Bible is unequivocal in its definition of marriage as the union between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6). This design is not arbitrary; it reflects God's purpose for human relationships, procreation, and the nurturing of children in stable, complementary family units.

Scripture also warns nations that depart from God's design. Romans 1:26-27 describes the consequences of turning away from natural relationships, and Proverbs 14:34 declares that righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. When a society redefines marriage against God's will, it invites judgment and social decay.

Furthermore, Jesus Himself affirms that marriage is a divine institution, not subject to human redefinition: "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate" (Matthew 19:6). A nation that disregards this divine order not only harms individuals but also future generations, as children are deprived of the stability of homes with both a mother and a father.

### **Arguing Against the LGBTQ+ Ontology of Humanity and Human Flourishing**

At the core of the LGBTQ+ movement's ideological framework is an ontological redefinition of what it means to be human. According to their perspective, human identity is largely self-determined, fluid [irony], and primarily centered on subjective feelings and desires. They argue that a person's sexual orientation or gender identity is an *essential*, defining trait of their humanity—one that is as immutable and intrinsic as race or biological sex. This framework places personal autonomy and self-actualization as the highest goods in defining human flourishing.

### **Counter-Argument: Biblical Ontology and True Human Flourishing**

The Christian worldview which founded our country and made it great stands in stark contrast to the darkness and lies of the LGBTQ+ worldview. The Christian worldview teaches that ontology is rooted in divine design, not subjective self-perception. According to Scripture:

- All humans are created in the image of God (Imago Dei) – Genesis 1:27 states, "*God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*" Our existence is not defined by our desires but by the fact that we are image-bearers of the Creator, given a specific design and purpose.
- Human flourishing comes through obedience to God's order – True well-being is not achieved by indulging every inner impulse but by aligning oneself with God's will (Psalm 1, John 10:10).

- Sexual identity is not an ontological category – Nowhere in Scripture or in nature is a person's identity tied to sexual preference. Rather, one's primary identity is in relation to God—either as a sinner in rebellion or as a redeemed saint in Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11), and distinctly as male or female.

The LGBTQ+ ontology is inherently reductionist, reducing humanity to mere sexual or gender expressions, whereas the biblical view of humanity sees men and women as inherently valuable, created for divine purposes beyond carnal impulses. This is why LGBTQ ideology leads to confusion and dysfunction rather than fulfillment—because it misidentifies the core of human nature and purpose.

### **Arguing Against the LGBTQ+ Definition of Love**

The LGBTQ+ movement and the concept of “gay marriage” frequently appeals to “love” as its highest moral argument:

- *“Love is love.”*
- *“If two consenting adults love each other, why should anyone interfere?”*
- *“Denying someone the right to love is cruel.”*

But what does love mean in this framework? The LGBTQ+ ideology defines love as an uninhibited emotional and sexual attraction that should be acted upon without restriction, provided it is consensual. Their idea of love is fundamentally rooted in eros (erotic attraction and self-fulfillment) rather than agape (selfless, God-honoring and person-honoring love).

### **The Biblical Definition of Love**

In contrast, Scripture defines love as righteous, self-sacrificial, and ordered towards God's holiness and human flourishing:

- Love is rooted in truth and holiness – *“Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth”* (1 Corinthians 13:6). Biblical love cannot celebrate sin, and thus love cannot be used to justify homosexual acts of sodomy.
- Love is self-sacrificial, not self-indulgent – *“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends”* (John 15:13). True love calls people out of sinful bondage, not deeper into it.
- Love protects, rather than harms – *“Let all that you do be done in love”* (1 Corinthians 16:14). This means love must be rightly ordered—protecting the dignity of the person, rather than degrading them through sinful acts. Sodomy acts are

actually working against the dignity of the gay identified man, treating them less than other men in their natural purpose in creation.

### **Why the LGBTQ+ Definition of Love Falls Short**

1. It equates love explicitly with sexual gratification. In Scripture, love is not lust or indulgence—it is holy, pure, and ordered toward godly purposes (Ephesians 5:1-3). The LGBTQ+ movement conflates fleeting erotic desires with lasting, meaningful love.
2. It justifies harm under the guise of affection. Engaging in same-sex sodomy is not an expression of love—it is an act of defilement (Romans 1:24-27). Physically, it leads to increased risks of disease, trauma, and medical complications. Spiritually, it corrupts the soul and dishonors the image of God in the man.
3. It is self-seeking, rather than self-sacrificial. The LGBTQ+ ideology promotes a self-focused “love” that seeks personal fulfillment over holiness and righteousness. Biblical love denies the self to honor God and others.

### **Why Sodomy is Unbecoming, Harmful, and a Radical Abomination**

#### **Physically Harmful**

Sodomy—whether giving or receiving—is not what the male body was designed for. The biological reality is clear:

- The rectum is not designed for penetration the way a vagina is. It lacks the necessary natural lubrication and structure, making it highly susceptible to tearing and disease transmission.
- Medical studies confirm that sodomy significantly increases the risk of infections, STDs, rectal trauma, and even colorectal cancer.
- It violates natural function.

#### **Spiritually and Morally Unbecoming**

- Sodomy is a complete perversion of God’s design for sexuality, which was created for the union of male and female in marriage for procreation and deep, spiritual intimacy (Genesis 1:28, 2:24).
- Romans 1:26-27 states that unnatural sexual relations are evidence of a society that has rejected God and is under His judgment.

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 is clear: *“Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals ... will inherit the kingdom of God.”* Homosexual acts—including sodomy—are fundamentally incompatible with salvation and sanctification.

### **Sodomy as a Radical Abomination**

- Scripture explicitly calls homosexual behavior an abomination (*toevah* in Hebrew), meaning a detestable act that deeply offends God (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13).
- The judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19) serves as a historic warning: when a society embraces and normalizes sodomy, it invites divine wrath.
- Sodomy is the antithesis of love, because it degrades the image of God in men and women who practice it. It does not honor, cherish, or protect—it dehumanizes, defiles, and destroys.

### **Summary of Truth and Love in Harmony**

- The LGBTQ+ movement’s ontology of human nature is flawed because it is self-defined, rather than grounded in divine truth. Human flourishing is found not in indulging desires, but in submitting to God’s will.
- The LGBTQ+ definition of love is self-focused, sexualized, and permissive of sin. In contrast, biblical love is holy, sacrificial, and rooted in truth.
- Sodomy is unnatural, physically harmful, and spiritually destructive. It is not an act of love, but an act of defilement and rebellion against God’s design inviting divine wrath.

True love calls sinners to repentance—not affirmation of sin. Love, in its purest form, points people to Christ, the only One who can set them free. Jesus sets the repentant homosexual free and washes them clean of sin and sanctifies them unto holiness, which includes heterosexuality.

### **Conclusion: A Call to Restore Marriage to Its Rightful Place**

The Obergefell ruling was an unconstitutional overreach, built upon a faulty premise that sexual orientation is an immutable characteristic. The reality of transformation, as seen in my life and the lives of many others, contradicts this assertion. Marriage is not a right based on personal desire but a sacred institution ordained by God for the good of individuals, families, and society.

I urge the North Dakota legislature to stand for truth and pass Resolution 3013, calling upon the U.S. Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to its rightful and natural state. We must honor God's design and protect future generations from the consequences of abandoning it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Pastor Daren Mehl

Agape First Ministries

President, Voice of the Voiceless

Founder, Made Free Ministries

[Linktr.ee/darenmehl](http://Linktr.ee/darenmehl)

[www.madefreeministries.com](http://www.madefreeministries.com)

[www.agapefirstministries.org/darenmehl](http://www.agapefirstministries.org/darenmehl)

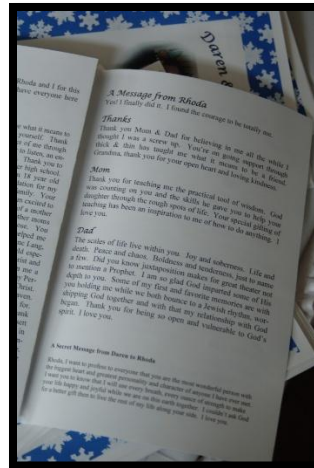
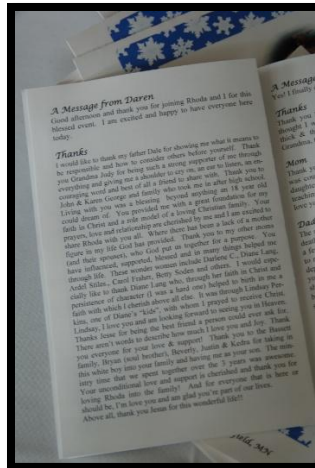
[www.therapeuticchoice.com](http://www.therapeuticchoice.com)

[www.therapyequality.org](http://www.therapyequality.org)

[www.voiceofthevoiceless.info](http://www.voiceofthevoiceless.info)

<https://changedmovement.com/stories//daren-mehl>

**Mehl Marriage December 11, 2005**





**The Mehl Family, 2024, Praise to Jesus for His generous blessing in our marriage!**



---

*But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. - 1 Corinthians 7:2*

---

This applies to all men and women, regardless of their current experience of sexual orientation. Desires can change! Marriage between men and women is blessed by God!

---

<sup>i</sup> [[bit.ly/LDExplains01](https://bit.ly/LDExplains01)]

<sup>ii</sup> [www.therapyequality.org](http://www.therapyequality.org) [www.therapeuticchoice.com](http://www.therapeuticchoice.com) [www.journalofhumansexuality.com](http://www.journalofhumansexuality.com)

<sup>iii</sup> [www.changedmovement.com](http://www.changedmovement.com)



Chairmen Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing you today to speak against this resolution, because I believe it is not only harmful but also deeply un-Christian.

Jesus himself gave us the greatest commandment: *"Love your neighbor as yourself..."* (Mark 12:31). Nowhere did He say to love only those who live exactly as we do. He did not tell us to exclude or reject people for being different. Instead, He taught love, kindness, and acceptance. If we claim to follow His teachings, which I do, we should not be trying to break apart loving families.

God made my son just the way he is. He did not make a mistake. My son is gay, and he has married the love of his life. Their relationship is built on the same values as any other loving marriage—commitment, respect, and support for one another. I ask you: What evidence do the authors of this resolution have that allowing same-sex marriage has been a detriment to our society? And if there is no such evidence, which there is not, why does it need to be reversed? And I also ask, how has it truly affected them personally? And was it because it truly affected them negatively or was it because it just made them feel uncomfortable? Or is it because they believe the religious pious rhetoric of individuals who would rather cling to the fire and brimstone perception of God and not the loving God Jesus showed us.

And I can also assure you that it does not make everyone feel uncomfortable. On the contrary, for me and my family and my friends (even those that have deeply Republican values), it has brought nothing but joy. Seeing my son happy and loved is one of the greatest blessings of my and my husband's life. In my experience, the only time same-sex marriage is seen as a negative is when it is not accepted. But what gives anyone the right to disrupt the lives of families who do accept it? And embrace it as just as normal and natural as any other marriage, which my family does.

What exactly are we afraid will happen? Has that fear actually come true? It has been 10 years since the legalization of same-sex marriage. In reality, during that time, same-sex marriage has not truly harmed anyone. It has simply allowed people to live their lives with dignity, just as any of us would want.

Also, we are not put on this earth solely to procreate, as the authors of the resolution suggest. The existence of adoption is just one example of the truth of this statement. Adoption proves that families are not defined by biology but by love and commitment. Families come in many forms, and all should be honored and protected.

But we also need to acknowledge that same sex couples need the same legal rights as non-same-sex couples. Why does it bother people that same sex couples exchanging vows to be together for the rest of their lives is called marriage? Why do we need a distinction? Is it because they don't want them to have rights? Giving other people rights never takes away your rights. What have heterosexual couples lost because of same sex marriage? Nothing. My husband and I have not lost any of our rights.

When we focus on love instead of our own discomfort or maybe even hate, we see that there is no real difference between my son's marriage and any other. Love is love. And as followers of Christ (as the authors claim they are), as members of an already truly diverse society, we should be embracing that love—not seeking to tear it apart.

I urge you to stand against this resolution. Let families live in peace. What good will come of tearing them apart? I can see none. I can just express the heartache and turmoil that will come to our family if the authors true motivation would come to fruition. We need to send a much more loving and Christian-like message from North Dakota to our fellow North Dakotans, fellow Americans, and the world.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Foss

## Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Cody Werbelow-Miller, a resident of Mandan, ND, and I strongly oppose any efforts to overturn marriage equality. Love is love, and the right to marry the person you love should NEVER be taken away.

Marriage equality has not only strengthened families but has also provided legal and financial stability to millions of couples across the country. My spouse and I, Adam Miller-Werbelow, have built a life together, just like any other married couple. We share responsibilities, support each other in difficult times, and contribute to our community. We have been licensed foster parents for over 2 years, which allows us to help children and other families have second chances at a better life. We are able to do this because my husband and I are a team, and we do this together. We have provided so much love to the children that have come into our home, sometimes the most love they've ever felt before. But what about our lives? To have our marriage invalidated or threatened would not only be unjust, but it would also be deeply harmful.

Overturning gay marriage would send a message that LGBTQ+ people are less deserving of dignity and respect under the law. It would strip away hard-earned rights, affecting everything from hospital visitation and parental rights to social security benefits. No one should have to live in fear that their marriage, family, and legal protections could be erased. We have lived in fear most or all our lives, isn't it time we all come together and love one another so we can stop living in fear?

Marriage equality is about fairness, freedom, and love. It's about ensuring that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the right to marry the person they love. We CANNOT go backward. We must continue to stand for equality and protect the progress we've made.

Families like mine deserve the same rights, protections, and recognition as any other.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cody Werbelow-Miller  
District 31

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR3013.

I remember when the Supreme Court ruling came out in 2015 and celebrating as it felt this decision was long overdue and love finally won. In addition to consenting adults being able to declare their love for one another, all Americans deserve to have protections for their family that marriage brings; status of next-of-kin, legal rights to make decisions at end of life, financial and health benefits to name a few.

I am failing to understand why anyone would want this overturned. I have not been able to find any compelling arguments or negative impacts same-sex marriage has caused in our communities. I am very disappointed in our state government officials that this topic is a taking up resources and time when there are so many other causes that they could be focusing time and energy. Health care, protecting the elderly, working to end hunger insecurities, homelessness, mental health are a few initiatives that would enhance the lives and safety in our communities. This legislation does nothing to help or protect North Dakotans. In fact, it is legislation like this that divides and drives hate.

I have lived my whole life in North Dakota and for the most part always have been proud of this great state. This does not make me proud; this makes me cringe and sad that the LGBTQ+ community is being targeted to have freedoms taken away.

I am an actively involved in my community. I volunteer to enhance the lives of children and others that are vulnerable and in need of a little help, kindness, hope and love. I am trying to make a difference in creating a safe community for all. That includes advocating for basic freedoms and rights for all, regardless of who they love.

I am a Christian and I do not support how others are creating divide and hate in the name of God. I do not agree with their views as I was always taught, we are all God's children and should take actions to show love and support for one another.

Thank you for your time.

Heidi Llewellyn

Madame Chair Larson and Esteemed Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jason Grueneich, a proud citizen of District 30 in Bismarck, ND. I am providing testimony today in opposition to HCR3013. I write my opposition in the strongest way possible. There are many reasons I could write but let me provide just a few points as I know you are receiving overwhelming opposition to this resolution from your constituents:

- **Broad Support** - Currently in the United States, 69% of the public, or 2 in 3 people, support same sex marriage, when broken into parties respectively, 83% (D), 74% (I), and 46% (R). 370,101 people support same sex marriage in ND & 371,975 came out to vote last year.....
- **Lasting Marriages** – Recent divorce statistics show that Same Sex couples have a lower divorce rate, at 1.1% annually, compared to Straight, or Different Sex, couple who have a divorce rate of 2% annually, almost twice the rate.... They could teach us all a thing or two about making marriage work, couldn't they.
- **Economics** - A 5-year study, completed in 2020, found that same sex wedding ceremonies alone, are producing \$760 million a year for state and local economies, supported 45,000 jobs, and generated more than \$48.8 million dollars in state and local tax annually. That's just the marriages alone, not to say what economic output a same sex couple builds on top of that.
- **Frustrations** - Have you heard the public outcry from your state? It is everywhere, in the papers, on social media, on talk radio shows, ND Conservatives and Independents are pissed off. Here are a few of their comments, "Why is our state legislature wasting its time on this horrible resolution." & "We in ND mind our own business, work hard, and support our communities and community members, our productive straight AND gay community members, so why are we sticking our nose into this??".
- I'll tell you why, outside influences. There are strategic outside agencies using you, our elected legislature, to do something your constituents don't want you to do.
- The group is called MassResistance, & it has wooed local politicians in multiple rural states to submit their cookie cutter resolution, to bring their cause to the U.S. Supreme Court by using our state & wasting our taxpayer funds. They are not even from the Midwest; its New England elitists trying to bully your citizens into this and we don't want this. This didn't come from within the state, this is outside elitists trying to use you to do their dirty work and at our next election, you will be the ones who must face the 2 out of 3 North Dakotans who support same sex marriage at the polls, not MassResistance. Be OUR elected officials, support your citizens who are overwhelmingly in opposition to this, and vote **DO NOT PASS on HCR3013**.

Tamara Waters-Wheeler-personal statement.  
7030 Horseshoe Bend  
Bismarck, ND  
58503

3/11/2025

Senate Judiciary  
North Dakota Legislative Assembly  
600 E Boulevard Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Members of the House Human Services Committee:

I am writing this letter in opposition to HCR 3013. I believe that all individuals have a right to live with respect and dignity, regardless of any personal beliefs that I or others hold. This includes the ability to marry and raise a family. Churches and their members can have their own beliefs about marriage, but the government of ND should not decide what that looks like. The Constitution outlines a clear division between church and state and should be upheld. I believe HCR 3013 is a violation of this and, more importantly, does not indicate how the majority of North Dakotans feel.

Furthermore, this would harm same sex couples who are already married. There are individuals who feel they must adopt their own children now because they are fearing that the right to marry will be removed and they will no longer have legal claim of their own children. This will only hurt families. Passing this bill will also remove healthcare and other benefits from these families. Regardless of your personal religious beliefs, this is not right. If you don't want to marry same sex individuals in your church fine, but the state of ND should represent the rights of all North Dakotans, not a few congregation members of a church. A 2022 Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) opinion poll found that 66% of North Dakota residents supported same-sex marriage, while 34% opposed it and 1% were unsure. This indicates that the majority of ND residents are in support of same sex marriage and would therefore recommend a DO NOT PASS.

The Movement Advancement Project reports that 20,000 individuals in ND are LGBTQ—are we willing to lose 20,000 North Dakotans to other states because they can't get married if they want to. The same research project indicates that 12,000 of those individuals are members of our workforce. Can we afford to lose 12,000 workers? We already can't find enough staff in most jobs.

Finally, you don't have to agree with someone's way of life, but every human does deserve equal rights. As legislators, you should be standing by the Constitution and equal rights are for every man, woman and child. [Same-sex marriage](#) has been legal in North Dakota since the U.S. Supreme Court decision in [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) on June 26, 2015, which found the denial of marriage rights to same-sex couples **unconstitutional**. Please recommend a DO NOT PASS for this piece of legislation.

Tamara Waters-Wheeler

Resources:

[https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/profile\\_state/ND](https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/profile_state/ND)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_Religion\\_Research\\_Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Religion_Research_Institute)

March 11, 2025

**RE: Opposition to HCR 3013 – Preserving the Integrity of Equal Rights and Marriage Protections**

Dear Honorable Members of the North Dakota Senate and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a **“Do Not Pass”** on HCR 3013.

I am writing to express my strong and unequivocal opposition to HCR 3013, a resolution that not only challenges well-established constitutional rights but also seeks to reopen debates that this nation has already settled. Marriage equality is not a matter of opinion—it is a matter of law, stability, and the fundamental American promise that all citizens are entitled to equal protection under the law.

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) affirmed that same-sex couples have the same constitutional right to marry as opposite-sex couples, ensuring that all families receive the same legal recognition and protections. This ruling was not merely symbolic; it provided millions of Americans with legal security regarding parental rights, inheritance, healthcare, and spousal benefits—protections that should never be subject to political shifts. Congress reinforced these rights through the Respect for Marriage Act (2022), further safeguarding families against efforts to diminish their legal standing.

Efforts like HCR 3013 do not strengthen marriage or protect families; they do the opposite. By calling into question the legitimacy of certain marriages, this resolution fosters division, legal uncertainty, and unnecessary harm to American families. It is a step backward—one that is out of step with constitutional precedent, public opinion, and the moral obligation of governance.

I recognize that discussions on marriage equality have historically been shaped by deeply held personal beliefs. However, when personal beliefs are used to justify policies that restrict the rights of others, we must acknowledge the presence of bias. Whether intentional or not, legislation that seeks to redefine or restrict marriage rights disproportionately harms a specific group of Americans—our neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family members. That is the very definition of discrimination, and history has shown time and again that discrimination, when written into law, erodes the fabric of a just society.

The role of government is not to diminish rights but to protect them. It is to ensure that laws apply fairly and equally to all citizens, regardless of personal or religious viewpoints. Upholding marriage equality does not infringe on anyone’s personal beliefs, but revoking or undermining it would directly harm those whose marriages and families depend on legal recognition and stability.

My marriage is not a debate. It is not a bargaining chip. It is a lifelong commitment—rooted in love, shared responsibility, and the same values that strengthen all families. To attack the rights of same-sex couples is to attack the principles of freedom and equality that this country stands for. HCR 3013 attempts to erode those values, sending a dangerous and unacceptable message that some families are less valid, less worthy, and less protected.

Lawmakers do not get to decide whose love is legitimate and whose rights are expendable. I refuse to stand by while my marriage—and the marriages of countless others—are treated as second-class. North Dakota must be a place where all families are valued, where justice is not conditional, and where the promise of equality applies to everyone—not just a chosen few.

HCR 3013 does not move us forward—it places us at odds with legal precedent, public consensus, and the fundamental principles of fairness and equality. I urge you to reject this resolution and reaffirm the commitment to equal rights, legal stability, and the respect that all families deserve. The choice before you is not just about legislation; it is about ensuring that our state remains on the right side of history.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jorden Laducer-Dix

*A Proud North Dakotan, A Loving Husband, Father and, A Firm Defender of Equality*

**Senate Judiciary Committee  
HCR 3013 - Testimony in Opposition  
March 11, 2025**

Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HCR 3013. This unserious resolution is an embarrassment, a waste of time and resources, and frankly an insult to North Dakota residents. Taking time to entertain the personal interests and bigotry of HCR 3013's sponsors is hurtful, discriminatory, and abhorrent.

There are far more pressing issues affecting the residents of North Dakota. I urge you to vote NO on HCR 3013.

Thank you,  
Shannon Krueger  
District 3  
Minot, ND



**To:** Senate Judiciary Committee

**From:** Andrew Young

**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition of House Concurrent Resolution 3013

**Date:** March 11, 2025

Honorable members of the legislature,

My name is Andrew Young. I write to you today as a business owner, a husband, a father, and as a proud North Dakotan who believes in the future of our state. I write to express my deep concerns regarding HCR 3013, and the message passing this resolution sends. This resolution not only completely defies the welcoming nature that defines the spirit of North Dakota, but actively discourages people from investing their lives, businesses, and families in our state. This resolution sends a clear message: "If you are different, if you think differently, North Dakota is not for you." And that message is dangerous—not just socially, but economically.

Like all of you, I understand and know the North Dakota experience: It is my past, my present, and—if our state remains a place where everyone belongs—my future. I was raised in Napoleon, where my parents ran the local pharmacy. I was a state FFA officer. I attended NDSU, choosing to stay close to home because I have always cherished how North Dakota is defined by its strong communities, by people who show up for each other, no matter what.

But, I'll be honest: I considered leaving. In fact, I did. I spent time living in New York, Los Angeles, and even abroad in New Zealand. I saw the opportunities that existed elsewhere. But in the end, I came back—more than a decade ago—because I believed in the values of North Dakota.

But what really drew me back to North Dakota were the people. No place I've lived has come close to the resilience, warmth, and generosity I've found here. It's this same commitment to community that led me to build a business here, to employ North Dakotans, and to reinvest in the place that made me who I am. It's what keeps me here—fighting to ensure that the next generation sees North Dakota as a place worth calling home.

It's probably no surprise then, that I have chosen to spend my life and grow my family—right here in North Dakota—with someone for whom small-town values matter just as much, and for whom it's just as important to give back and invest in his community. What this reinvestment in the community looks like for him is driving 60 miles every day to and from the Class B school he teaches at, where he's managed to grow the school's choir – a completely optional elective course – from 50 to 210 students. What he's done, that's not just growth—that's investment in young people. That's what happens when we create a North Dakota where everyone is valued, where people are encouraged to stay, to contribute, and to make their communities better. **And yet, HCR 3013 threatens that sense of belonging.**

Our daughter, Mari, was born right here in Bismarck. Like all of you, the thing that motivates me the most is doing everything I can to ensure that *she* has the best possible future. My day-to-day looks just like every other North Dakotan's: Meals together at the dinner table, daycare drop-offs and pick-ups, weekends with Mari's grandparents, and working as hard as I can to provide the best possible future for my family. And I know that the future that I'm working towards isn't different from the one you imagine:

A North Dakota where every kid feels safe, valued, and supported. Where they can dream big, without fear that their state will one day tell them they don't belong. A place where fear and doubt don't hold back our youngest from chasing their dreams. This is the North Dakota we must fight to preserve.

But if this resolution passes, what message are we sending?

HCR 3013 doesn't just hurt individuals—it damages our state's reputation. It signals to the world that some people here matter less, that their families are unwelcome, that their investment in our communities doesn't count. That's not just wrong; it's objectively bad for business. Companies looking to relocate or expand will take their investments to other states. Young people will take their talents and abilities elsewhere, to places that actually respect their dignity, rather than corrupt the idea of dignity in order to put their own will over the people's. **And once that talent is gone, once that economic opportunity has left, how do we get it back?**

This is not about political rhetoric. This is about real consequences for real people—your neighbors, your constituents, your communities. Your kids, and your grandkids, and the kiddos they play with on the playground. For those who will ultimately cast their vote, I hope you will step back and consider the real implications of what you are doing: Justify it however you will, but a vote for this resolution is slamming the door in the face of thousands of North Dakotans, letting them know that their contributions are not welcome, that the state does not want their re-investment or their goodwill.

Is that the vision of North Dakota you want to project? Is that the vision your constituents elected you to represent?

Tonight, somewhere in this state, will be a kid lying awake, wondering why all this hate in the air. They're asking themselves: "Is this normal? Do I have a future here?" They're watching to see if North Dakota is a place where they can belong and succeed. I used to be this kid. And beyond our borders, business owners, job seekers, and families are asking themselves the same thing: Is North Dakota a place for me?

We owe them an answer.

North Dakota is more than my home. It's more than your home. It's our legacy. Let's remind every family—no matter who they are or whom they love—that they belong here. Let's reject HCR 3013 and affirm that our state is a place where everyone can thrive.

This isn't just about you; this isn't just about today. It's about the future of North Dakota.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Young', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Young  
111 Roberts St N  
Fargo, ND 58102

I urge you to vote NO on HCR 3013. The resolution does not reflect the values of inclusivity, respect, and equality that North Dakotans hold firm. The message this resolution sends is harmful and exclusionary, especially to our family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors in the LGBTQ+ community, who deserve the same rights as those who are married as “a man and woman.” Not only is this resolution harmful and divisive, but it is also a waste of taxpayer time and money. Please reject this resolution and uphold fairness and justice for all North Dakotans.

Respectfully,  
Alannah Valenta

### Testimony HRC 3013

This is Nicholas Dorce submitting testimony on behalf of all those who can't submit it themselves. America, North Dakota, and yes Williston, is full of Queer people and queer families. Being gay doesn't have a look. Many people around you are gay and you just don't realize it, because they don't look or act how you expect them to.. This bill would devastate not just gay people but everyone with gay family members and friends. Nothing good is accomplished by this bill. This bill only stands to do one thing. Spread hate, fear and distrust among our population. I urge all Christians, all God fearing people, and anyone with a shred of decency, to vote against this bill.

Chairperson Larson and members of the committee,

I wish to present my testimony strongly urging each of you to move a Do Not Pass on HCR 3013. To put it simply, not only is this resolution a waste of time and taxpayer money, but it presents our state as a hateful and unwelcoming place.

I have had the opportunity over the last several years to work with many amazing young people. Several of them, including my own daughter, are members of the LGBTQ+ community. All of them have been kind, intelligent, thoughtful individuals who would be a tremendous asset to any community. The most common thread among the young people I have worked with is that the vast majority of them are anxious to leave North Dakota. I am referring to all the young people I have worked with, not only the LGBTQ+ youth. Growing up in North Dakota I remember a similar desire to leave, but when I was a college student thirty years ago the desire to leave was because we wanted opportunities we didn't feel we had here. The young people I have worked with feel differently. In fact, many of them would like to stay, but are compelled to leave. It is legislative actions such as HCR 3013 that are compelling them to leave this state. Whether they as individuals feel persecuted, or if they feel their friends are being persecuted, they desire to live and go to school somewhere they all can feel safe and welcome. The passage of HCR 3013 through the House of Representatives sent a clear message of intolerance and bigotry which has angered many, republicans and democrats. Don't let the Senate make the same mistake.

Beyond making North Dakota unwelcoming to many who live here, there is frankly no compelling or valid argument to support its passage. I have heard legislators cite the unfortunate 2004 addition to our state's constitution as though this were reason enough. A lot has changed in 21 years, and the people of North Dakota now feel significantly different about this topic. Others cite religious reasons as support for this resolution. While they are free to hold whatever religious beliefs they like, their religious belief should not dictate another's belief in a society with religious freedom. I have several friends who are Lutheran pastors and are as passionate as I am about this resolution. I have also had others who state it is a resolution, not a law, and "nobody's rights are being taken away." It is a resolution that sends a message that the people of North Dakota believe some people should not have rights that others do have. That is not a North Dakota I want to live in.

Finally, I would like you all to consider this: what would your reaction be if a group of people were actively declaring your child should not be allowed the same benefits accorded to others through marriage? This resolution may not take away anyone's right to marry, but that is the ultimate end goal. I would like to think if a group of people were actively trying to take something away from your daughter, you would do everything within your power to try to stop them. I love my daughter, and I will do anything within my power to stop anyone who tries to take something away from her; especially something as fundamental as her right to happiness.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin S. Anderon  
Burlington, ND

I strongly oppose HCR 3013, which urges the Supreme Court to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015). This resolution is legally baseless, an inefficient use of legislative resources, and has no impact on Supreme Court decisions.

The Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* rests on the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses, which guarantee that same-sex couples have the same fundamental right to marry as opposite-sex couples. The decision followed established precedent, like *Loving v. Virginia* (1967), which struck laws prohibiting interracial marriage, and *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965), which upheld a fundamental right to privacy in marriage and family life. The *Obergefell* decision maintained that marriage is a basic right that state laws cannot refuse based on sexual orientation.

This resolution misrepresents constitutional law by suggesting that *Obergefell* created a new right. The Supreme Court has long recognized that rights protected by the Due Process Clause evolve over time, a principle upheld in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), which reaffirmed substantive due process protections. The idea that *Obergefell* was judicial overreach contradicts *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), which established the principle of judicial review, ensuring that unconstitutional state laws are struck down.

HCR 3013 is an impractical and purely symbolic resolution. The Supreme Court does not consider state legislative resolutions when determining constitutional law. **The Court has consistently ruled that constitutional rights are not subject to state-by-state political whims.** Furthermore, the Court has declined to revisit *Obergefell* in recent years, reinforcing the stability of this precedent.

Instead of revisiting Settled Doctrine, the North Dakota Legislature should focus on real issues affecting its residents, such as Education, Healthcare, and Economy. Wasting time on a resolution that will have no legal impact is a disservice to your constituents

HCR 3013 is legally unsound, ignores long-standing judicial precedent, and represents a misallocation of legislative time and resources. The Supreme Court has upheld marriage equality under the Constitution, and no symbolic resolution will alter that reality. I urge this committee to reject HCR 3013 and direct its efforts toward policies that genuinely benefit the people of North Dakota.

-----

Ethan Harsell  
Grand Forks

Let's start with the current constitutional question. The US Constitution contains no definition or laws pertaining to marriage. The Tenth Amendment makes it abundantly evident that the states and the people retain any authority not specifically granted to the federal government. These limits were crossed by the Supreme Court's Obergefell decision, which denied states the authority to choose their own marriage laws. Even worse, it disregarded citizens' inherent rights and changed liberty from an unalienable right bestowed by God to a luxury bestowed by the state.

The idea that same-sex "marriage" is a right is one of the main defenses of it. In actuality, nobody has the right to wed anybody. A woman has the right to decline my request for her hand in marriage. Additionally, those opposed to this resolution will argue that, similar to the Jim Crow South's racial segregation laws, prohibiting two people of the same sex from getting married is an example of invidious discrimination. It couldn't be further from the reality. People are born white, black, Hispanic, or belonging to a certain ethnic group. Nonetheless, there is no proof that people are born gay.

Actually, there are now major public health issues as a result of same-sex relationships becoming more common. Guys who have sexual relations with other guys have disproportionately high rates of HIV, STDs, and mental health issues, according to CDC data. These problems are caused by the inherent dangers of homosexual activity rather than by so-called discrimination. The medical evidence contradicts attempts to portray these worries as merely societal stigma.

This choice was unethical in addition to having legal issues. Justices Ginsburg and Kagan, who decided in Obergefell's favor, had conducted same-sex marriages before. Their failure to recuse themselves raises serious concerns about judicial bias. If they had, the decision would have probably been 4-3 against same-sex marriage, relegating the issue to the democratic process.

Redefining marriage has had serious societal repercussions in addition to constitutional issues. Both common law and natural law have long acknowledged marriage as a commitment between a single man and a single woman.

Following Obergefell, we have also witnessed a concerning decline in free speech and religious freedom. For merely declining to take part in same-sex weddings, business owners like bakers, florists, and photographers have been subject to crippling penalties and legal action.

Some would contend that we have more urgent issues and that this is a settled issue. However, all other policies—economic, legal, and cultural—rest on shifting sand if we permit the basis of marriage and family to deteriorate. A strong nation is built on strong families. We cannot prioritize America at the expense of American children.

You have the chance to stand up for the Constitution, natural law, and truth today, committee members. The mistake was Obergefell. It's time for states to take back their legitimate power, defend religious freedom, and reinstate marriage's natural order.

Support HCR 3013, please.

Glenn Robinson

In Opposition to HCR 3013, A concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore

March 11, 2025

Dear Senators of the Judiciary Committee,

I'm submitting this testimony on behalf of myself and not as a representation of any organization or employer.

The proposed House Concurrent Resolution 3013 represents a dangerous regression in civil rights, built upon a foundation of historical revisionism, constitutional misinterpretation, and religious dogma that contradicts both legal precedent and modern ethical standards. Through a review of historical record, legal scholarship, theological diversity, and real-world consequences, HCR 3013 can only be seen as a blatant unconstitutional attempt to codify discrimination against LGBTQ North Dakotans. Simply put, the authors of this resolution and their testimony have a central argument that fails under basic factual scrutiny, highlighting the resolution's roots in intolerance and prejudice.

Representative Tveit has claimed that this resolution is "a crucial step in taking back our country, our culture, and our communities". I must ask: taking it back from whom? From loving families? From taxpaying citizens? From dedicated service members? This framing reveals the true nature of this resolution – not as a policy position based on constitutional principles, but as an expression of prejudice against a minority group.

Representative Tveit has argued that marriage was "always" between one man and one woman until "a mere 10 years ago". This claim ignores the rich and diverse history of marriage across different cultures and time periods. Furthermore, it disregards the fact that numerous religious denominations and spiritual traditions have been celebrating same-sex unions for decades before legal recognition as demonstrated in other testimonies detailing anthropological evidence of same-sex unions. The definition of marriage has continuously evolved throughout human history, expanding to include interracial couples (*Loving v Virginia* (1967)) and to recognize women as equal partners rather than property. Each of these evolutions strengthened, rather than weakened, the institution of marriage.

The justification that marriage must be restricted because "you cannot conceive or birth children, except for the coming together of a male and a female" ignores reality. We do not require fertility tests or procreation commitments for heterosexual couples seeking marriage. In *Zablocki v. Redhail* (1978), the Supreme Court affirmed marriage as "a fundamental right of all individuals" regardless of fertility. No state requires fertility testing for marriage licenses, rendering Tveit's procreation argument legally incoherent. For the 1.2 million American children



being raised by same-sex parents, this resolution threatens stable home environments by delegitimizing their families' legal standing.

The resolution's premise of state authority over marriage recognition directly violates Article VI's Supremacy Clause and Section 1's Full Faith and Credit requirements. The representatives authoring this resolution, with even a basic review, would have seen that legal scholars from state bar associations unanimously confirm that overturning *Obergefell* would create immediate conflicts in child custody agreements across state lines, military spousal benefits for over 16,000 active-duty LGBTQ service members, and tax filing status for 135,000 same-sex households. As Representative Foss noted, overturning *Obergefell* would strip protections from same-sex households in North Dakota affecting hospital visitation rights during medical emergencies, inheritance of family farms/businesses, veterans' burial benefits, and parental custody agreements.

Again, I ask, what is this resolution for if not to directly target and discriminate.

Beyond the historical inaccuracies, HCR 3013 also presents serious constitutional problems. The suggestion that Justices Kagan and Ginsburg should have recused themselves from *Obergefell* because they had officiated same-sex weddings demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of judicial ethics by the authors and Representative Tveit. By this logic, any justice who had ever officiated a heterosexual wedding would be equally obligated to recuse themselves from cases involving marriage. Applying this logic, any Catholic justices could not rule on abortion matters or Protestant justices would need to be barred from religious liberty cases. This argument establishes a dangerous double standard and attempts to delegitimize the Supreme Court's decision through procedural objections rather than substantive legal reasoning, further demonstrating that HCR 3013 lacks a credible legal foundation.

Furthermore, the resolution's proponents rely on selective interpretations of religious texts to justify their position. In prior testimony, Genesis 2:24 was cited for defining marriage. While they are certainly entitled to their religious beliefs, using Genesis as the basis for civil law directly contradicts the constitutional separation of church and state. Many faith communities, including numerous Christian denominations, affirm same-sex marriage and interpret scripture differently. A resolution that imposes one particular religious interpretation on all citizens directly undermines religious freedom for those with different beliefs. Furthermore, this ignores scripture's own examples of polygamous unions (Solomon's 700 wives), levirate marriages (Deuteronomy 25:5-6), and political alliances (Esther's Persian marriage). The Bible describes marriages involving concubines (Judges 8:31), captives of war (Deuteronomy 21:10-14), rapists and victims (Deuteronomy 22:28-29). To selectively literalize one verse while ignoring others constitutes theological malpractice.

I must emphasize that the public record clearly demonstrates overwhelming opposition to this resolution. Reviewing the legislative testimony records, the majority of citizens who have taken the time to testify on HCR 3013 have urged a "do not pass" recommendation. When elected officials push forward with legislation despite clear public opposition, they fail in their most basic duty to represent their constituents. This resolution does not reflect the values of inclusion, fairness, and respect that most North Dakotans hold dear. The narrow margin by which this resolution passed the House (52-40) suggests that even among legislators, there is significant disagreement about its merits. I urge this committee to reject HCR 3013 and to focus instead on legislation that addresses the actual challenges facing North Dakotans – affordable housing, healthcare access, educational opportunities, and economic development.

This resolution represents not just a step backward for our state, but a direct attack on the rights, dignity, and everyday lives of our LGBTQ neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family members. I ask you to reject this harmful resolution and instead affirm that North Dakota is a place where all families are valued, all citizens are treated equally under the law, and where we focus on bringing people together rather than driving them apart.

Thank you for your consideration.

Benjamin Welte

District 44

**Erin Price**

Bismarck, ND – D35

11 March 2025

**Senate Judiciary Committee**

North Dakota State Legislature

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote **Do Not Pass** on HRC3013. As someone who has spent nearly two decades advising college students in North Dakota, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact of our state's inclusivity and the damage that can be done when we pass resolutions that alienate and hurt vulnerable communities.

For nearly 20 years, I have worked with students from all backgrounds, ethnicities, and walks of life. A core part of my role has been to ensure that each and every student feels welcome and supported in their educational environment. One thing that I have learned over the years is that creating a welcoming and inclusive community is essential to the success of our students, and that feeling of inclusion doesn't just happen automatically—it is fostered through deliberate actions, policies, and resolutions.

Unfortunately, resolutions like HRC3013 send the opposite message. They foster division, creating an atmosphere of exclusion that causes people—particularly LGBTQ+ individuals—feel unwelcome in our state. As an advisor, I have seen the damage caused by stigmatization and alienation. These feelings of rejection are not only detrimental to the mental health and well-being of our young people, but they can also derail their academic and personal growth.

North Dakota should be a place where all individuals feel safe, valued, and respected. Our students, our families, and our communities deserve to live in a state that fosters a sense of belonging for everyone, regardless of who they are or whom they love. Passing harmful resolutions such as HRC3013 does the opposite: it tears apart the social fabric of our communities and isolates the very people who should be uplifted and embraced.

I urge you to consider the long-term effects of this resolution, both on the lives of our young people and on the future of North Dakota. We need to create a state where everyone, regardless of their identity, feels empowered to contribute to our shared vision for a better tomorrow. I strongly ask that you vote **Do Not Pass** on HRC3013 to protect the values of acceptance, kindness, and inclusivity that make North Dakota a great place to live.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Erin Price

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge Do Not Pass on HCR 3013.

My name is Johnathan Schilling and I'm a resident of Grand Forks. I moved here relatively recently (from Las Vegas, funnily enough) and I love it so much more. The green grass and trees, the white snow, the super kind people, seasons! It's idyllic. Well... almost.

I am a gay man, too. When walking down University Avenue with my friends from UND's Queer-Trans Alliance group, there are many occasions when people in cars roll down their windows and yell slurs at us, such as "faggots" or "fags" (I'm pretty obvious, as I usually wear pink head to toe, have long, curly hair, and wear an earring). As it stands, these meant-to-be-harmful words are essentially empty threats. Yes, some people are offended by them, but I'd personally hate to imagine what might've happened if there weren't societal (including legal) consequences specifically for physical violence against our group. Actually, thinking of it, I don't have to imagine it; rather, all I have to do is read one of a great many books on that topic for a time in history when that wasn't the case. Anyways, a few community members attempted to report these incidents to the University due to their no-tolerance policy, but to no avail (at least no communication back about it and any potential actions that might've been taken to limit such harassment). We've decided to just move forward, deeming that it's a social problem that needs to be addressed some other way. And voila! A situation has come where it is possible to address it on an effective social scale (coming from a more local government itself, no less).

See, my plea to you is not one of seeking privilege or some sort of elevated social class. For my community, I seek the same rights and privileges as others. Ideally, I'd like to see a

society where all people are treated well by others and problems sorted out fairly and justly. Obviously that's an unrealistic dream, but it's one worth working towards. In reality, I'd just like to (at the very least and barring all else) see that on paper. And, lucky for me, it is. At least currently. What this resolution does (if passed) is attempt to take that equality away. Or, at the very least, undermine it and tell the citizens of North Dakota that our elected officials do not care about equality and freedom for all. Is this truly the message we want to be sent? Has it been considered how this resolution, if passed, might embolden the very same misguided bigots, who wish for the existence of me and my community to cease, to commit potential acts of violence against us? They might consider the passing of this resolution to mean they have allies in the legislature who would support their potential violence, and have the opposite of what is known as the "chilling effect". What about future laws? If we don't have marriage equality under the law, might it not be reasonable to remove equality of ownership, or educational opportunity, or any number of things? Down the rabbit hole we'd go, and deep we could go indeed.

Hypothetically, equality of life could be revoked. This is dangerous for my community and I, and I hope you can not only see that, but also see that we are people as well, and if you believe in a God, created by Him just like everything and everybody else. We deserve, not everything, but just plain old human decency, just like everyone else. Again, I urge Do Not Pass for this resolution.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to this great and beautiful state. I know it can be hard, but I have faith that you can and will make the more just decision.

- Johnathan A Schilling

My name is Carleen Soule, a citizen of Mandan, North Dakota, and I reject this attempt by the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to reject the Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges.

Despite this HCR's haughty and pontifical WHEREASEs, it seems the asses don't know where the majority of the population stands in their supports equal marriage.

The states' establishment of same-sex marriage preceeded the Supreme Court decision by roughly 70%, and public opinion presently shares this percentage in support of marriage equality.

The authors of HCR 3013 seem to suggest they were present during the founding of this nation by asserting in their WHEREASEs that a particular definition would not have been recognized by the framers of the US Constitution, which is certainly speculative given that HCR 3013's views and "traditions" of marriage are as old as dirt.

Throughout these WHEREASEs slithers a slimy suggestion of superiority, an air of arrogance that alleges an "inversion of liberty," which is grotesquely ironic given that this HCR wishes to invert the marriages of its neighbors.

This HCR itself is "dangerous fiction" and this 69<sup>th</sup> should 86 HCR 3013.

I stand in full support of marriage equality and in full support of the LGBTQIA2S+ community. My signature proudly stands with the thousand additional signatures on a letter via the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition to our legislators to reject this HCR.

HCR 3013 represents hatred and intolerance and I, in my strongest words possible, urge you to reject this reprehensible piece of legislation.

**Robert L. Vazzo. M.M.F.T.**  
**Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (NV MFT 01294)**  
**3450 East Russell Road, Suite 205**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89120**  
**healingtherapy1@yahoo.com**  
**(800) 249-3501**  
**(818) 482-6083**

March 11, 2025

Re: Support for HCR 3013

Dear Senators:

I was the lead plaintiff in the Court case *Vazzo v City of Tampa*, a court case where I fought for the rights of parents and their children to choose therapies that align with their beliefs and values concerning their sexual orientation. Today, I am writing to support the above resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

The reasons for my support are as follows:

- (1) Like *Roe v. Wade*, the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision stripped states of their rights to make laws that are in the best interest of their citizenry. Many states had laws defining marriage as between a man and a woman at the time of the Supreme Court decision, and in an instant, the Court invalidated those laws.
- (2) The concept of marriage has always had its origins in religion and the potentiality for reproduction of the human species. Homosexual men and women can never engage in sexual intercourse with members of the same sex and have reproduction of the human species as the end result. Therefore, while homosexual men and women should be afforded the right to have legal unions, we should not call those unions “marriage.”

(3) In an age where not offending groups of people has become a defining factors in the consideration of legislation, the Supreme Court failed to realize how integrating gay marriage into the fabric of American life would offend many Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Religious individuals have been forced to accept the imposition of behaviors and values of a small minority of the population.

(4) Gay marriage has been based on the idea that homosexuality is innate and immutable. These two ideas are myths that have been refuted repeatedly. No gay gene exists and fluidity does exist in sexual orientation. Research has shown the latter to be true in many individuals.

For these very important reasons, I am asking you to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

*Robert L Vazzo*

Robert L. Vazzo

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist



**Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 12th, 2025 HRC 3013  
Testimony in Opposition**

---

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013.

I stand with the over 1,000 people who put their name down to ask that North Dakota stop sending a message of hate to the thousands of families and same sex couples making their home in North Dakota.

- <https://www.ndhrc.org/you-belong-here-a-letter-to-our-lgbtq-community/>

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Faye Seidler

Judiciary members- Please support HCR 3013. In 2004, the people of ND affirmed what marriage has been since God ordained it millenia ago with 73% of the vote. Since marriage isn't mentioned anywhere in the federal Constitution, any decisions regarding it should be left to the states or to 'We The People' to decide, even though I'd prefer to leave the concept of marriage & everything to do with it to the Church.

The Obergefell decision by the Supreme Court should never have happened, as it disregarded all the different states that did just what ND did & it invented a Constitutional right for a select group of people & took it upon itself to redefine marriage, contrary to the Bible, which was the main book that our Founders revered & helped inspire the formation of America to protect our God given rights. In Matthew chapter 19, Jesus Christ (Who divided our history by His life, death & resurrection) only speaks of marriage being between a man & a woman. He is the ultimate Authority in all matters, not our Supreme Court, which is made up of people in need of His pardon. That court made an error.

Send the Supreme Court a reminder that the people of ND affirmed what marriage has always been in our Constitution 21 years ago & hopefully other states do the same. Sometimes it takes reminders for people to do the right thing so that if this comes before them again, they'll do the right thing by overturning that decision & return decisions regarding marriage to the states or to the people of America, which is found in the 10th Amendment.

Thank you,  
Mark Peterson, Grand Forks ND

12 March 2025

To members of the North Dakota Senate,

I am writing to you today to urge you to vote against HCR3013. This concurrent resolution commits an act of deep harm to LGBTQ+ North Dakotans, their families, and those who support an inclusive definition of marriage.

As a North Dakotan, I was taught that care about neighborliness, service, and respect for the dignity of all people is paramount.

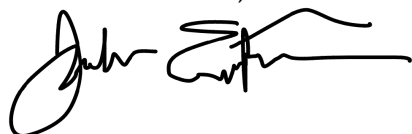
As a Lutheran Christian, I am held by conscience-bound belief that marriage among heterosexual and LGBTQ+ peoples of all kinds can be a vocation, a holy calling, and gift. Our diversity and dignity is a beautiful part of God' creation, and just, loving, and intimate relationships sometimes find a safe home for themselves in marriage.

This past summer, my partner and I got engaged. We have been together nearly 8 years, having weathered COVID and a changing world. We have mourned the deaths of grandparents together. We've experienced the joy and celebration of family together. My parents are enjoying teaching my partner the ins-and-outs of the family farm and showing him, as he's not from here, the beauties of North Dakota. Our parents are looking forward to our wedding, and we are, like so many others, overwhelmed with the details of planning a wedding celebration. Still, we are looking forward to a beautiful celebration of our supportive communities, churches, friends, families, and loved ones.

In a state where so much beauty exists, this concurrent resolution is a source of deep sadness, an impingement on my own religious freedom that understands God's celebration of a more inclusive vision of marriage, and makes us wonder whether we're welcome back home, whether we'd be safe making medical decisions with one another.

**I urge you all to vote against HCR3013. North Dakota is so much more legendary than this.**

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Erickson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Jacob J. Erickson, Minot

Distinguished Judicial Senate Committee,

Good afternoon! My name is Alida Arnegard. I want to appeal to you once more to vote yes to HCR 3013. I would like to share verses with you which define marriage which is a holy union instituted by God from the beginning of time.

As a christian, I believe that Jesus Christ created the world by speaking it into existence, he created the first man & the first woman, & he was the creator of everything! Male and female!! He created them. They were Gods idea!!

Havent you read , he replied, that he who created them in the beginning made them Male and female. Matthew 19:4 HCSB

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father & his mother & hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ESV

Matt. 19:5-6 and he also said for this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate. HCSB

The two become ONE!! God made the opposite sexes to be able to come together perfectly as ONE!! When a child is conceived, we know that a miracle of God has occurred by blending two human beings into one, melting their bodies into one, and amazingly enough, that mystery happens & a beautiful child that looks very similar to the parents comes from that beautiful act. This miracle happens again and again. From an incredible union of one man and one woman, nations have been birthed! As we know, marriage and the family truly are the foundation of society & God created it to be that way.

Jesus teaches something beautiful in the new covenant!! We see grace in Luke 8:7b when Jesus says regarding the woman caught in adultery The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her. HCSB

When her accusers didnt condemn her, Jesus said in John 8:11B Neither do I condemn you, said Jesus. Go and FROM NOW ON, do NOT sin anymore! HCSB

We must not throw out clear, biblical teaching on marriage.

Biblical marriage is so much more than a civil union between two people. It is a sacred & spiritual covenant. Holy Matrimony is a God-ordained institution between one man and one woman.

As was suggested in an earlier testimony, if same sex couples should desire to have a civil union, tax breaks or if they need to obtain legal power of attorney for their end of life situations or medical reasons, etc, the law could still allow for that.

As it is a free country, people can live any lifestyle they choose regardless of what the bible teaches. But we must not continue to call this something it just isnt. Same sex couples can celebrate their relationships in their own way but those unions are not a biblically defined marriage.

It is a sticky situation in our country since we have had 10 years in which we have allowed for same sex unions and we have called them marriages.

This resolution will urge the Supreme Court to revisit the definition of marriage in the future. Whether existing same sex unions are grandfathered in under the law or not would be another issue to consider and address. But we must try to undo the damage that has been caused by allowing the government to define the sacred institution of biblical marriage.

Thank you for hearing my viewpoint on this crucial matter. Please consider voting yes to HCR 3013!

Sincerely,

Alida Arnegard  
District 26

I retired from the Army Guard in 2015 and my spouse retired from the Air Force in 2021. We met when we both were deployed to Iraq in 2007. When marriage finally became legal in 2015 in ND, we were married in August that same year. The resolution to restrict marriage to only a man and a woman fails to recognize the fundamental principles of equality, freedom, and love that are core to our society. Marriage should not be confined by gender but rather defined by the mutual respect, commitment, and love between two individuals, regardless of their sex or gender identity. In a diverse and evolving world, it is essential to ensure that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, have the right to marry the person they love. By imposing such a restrictive definition of marriage, we deny individuals their basic human rights and fail to honor the values of inclusivity and dignity. Denying same-sex couples the legal right to marry undermines the ideals of liberty and justice upon which our society was founded. It perpetuates harmful discrimination and sends a message that certain relationships are less valid or deserving of recognition than others. Marriage is not about gender—it is about the partnership between two individuals who choose to spend their lives together, in love and support. History has shown that legal recognition of same-sex marriage does not harm society. On the contrary, it strengthens families, promotes equality, and fosters social harmony. By rejecting this resolution, we affirm that love transcends gender and that every person deserves the right to marry whomever they choose. In conclusion, marriage should be a personal and inclusive choice for all people, free from discriminatory barriers. Let us move forward with compassion, fairness, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

## Testimony Against HRC 3013

Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I come before you not just as a citizen, but as a person who believes in the fundamental values of love, dignity, and equality that our nation stands for. I strongly oppose HRC 3013, which seeks to ask the Supreme Court to reverse its ruling on same-sex marriagea ruling that has granted millions of Americans the legal recognition, protection, and respect they deserve.

For nearly a decade, marriage equality has been the law of the land, affirming that love is love, that families built on love deserve the same protections as any other, and that no government should have the power to strip away the dignity of its people. To attempt to overturn this ruling is not just an attack on LGBTQ+ couples; it is an attack on the very principles of justice and freedom that this country claims to uphold.

This bill is not just words on paper; it is a direct threat to familiesfamilies who have built their lives together, raised children together, supported one another through sickness and health, in times of hardship and joy. To suggest that their marriages are somehow less worthy, less valid, or undeserving of recognition is to tell them that their love is not real. But I assure you, it is real. It is as deep and sacred as any other.

The Supreme Courts ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges was not just a legal victory; it was a moral affirmation that LGBTQ+ people are full citizens of this country, deserving of the same rights and responsibilities as anyone else. Rolling back these protections would set a dangerous precedent, opening the door for further discrimination, legal instability, and harm to countless individuals and families.

This is not about politics. This is about peopleour neighbors, our friends, our coworkers, our children. It is about the promise that America is a place where freedom means freedom for everyone. That promise must not be broken.

I urge you to reject this bill and stand on the side of love, equality, and justice.

Thank you,  
Ashley Froehlich  
Hillsboro, ND

## **I oppose HCR 3013**

I have many happy healthy friends in same sex marriages and relationships who deserve the right to marriage. We could be potentially losing great and valuable community members. These are great people I oppose this resolution.

Susan Lundmark

Minot, ND



North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee  
HCR 3013  
March 12, 2025

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

My name is Erin Lee and I live in Fargo. I am writing in strong opposition to HCR 3013.

There are so many reasons why this should be opposed, the main one being that love is love, no matter who it is between. Love does not discriminate based on birth-assigned gender. Whom someone loves is their concern, not anyone else's. Passing this resolution would send a message of unwelcome to those in a same-sex marriage or relationship. It would send a message of hate, which is so sad to me. I thought our state had the motto, "North Dakota Nice". This certainly doesn't reflect upon that.

It is clear that those that support this bill are trying to invoke their personal religious beliefs on other people. Where is the separation of church and state?

A recent poll in The Forum showed that more than half (56%) of polled North Dakotans agree with the US Supreme Court's decision to guarantee marriage rights to same-sex couples. Only 36% said they wanted to overturn this decision. Please uphold the wishes of the citizens you were elected to represent and DO NOT PASS HCR 3013.

Respectfully,  
Erin Lee  
Fargo, ND

I am a North Dakota resident and I do not support this resolution. Please do not support HCR 3013.

## **HCR 3013**

To the senators of the great state of North Dakota:

I implore you to stand boldly for God's righteousness.

Proverbs 14:34 says "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns a people."

Scripture condemns the homosexual lifestyle.

"Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable." -Leviticus 18:22

"If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads."  
-Leviticus 20:13

"Because of this [rebellion against God], God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.

In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error."  
-Romans 1:26-27

"Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men"  
-1 Corinthians 6:9

“Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.”

-Jude 1:7

From the beginning of time, as outlined in Genesis 2:24, we see God's instructions to men and women as it relates to the lifelong union between them.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Mark 10:6-9, in the New Testament, declares His original and permanent design for marriage.

“But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

There is no changing what God Himself designed and instituted, and what He had already declared about a matter.

We see that His nature and His Word is immutable and unchanging.

“I am the Lord and I do not change.”

-Malachi 3:6

“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.”

-Psalm 119:8

“The grass wither and the flower fades but the Word of the our God endures forever.”

-Isaiah 40:8

You must choose this day whom you will serve.

Your choice will usher in either blessing or cursing on our land and its people. Reject fear. Choose life.

Please vote YES on HCB 3013.

Sincerely,

Paris King - District 26, Watford City, McKenzie County

Senate Judiciary Committee HCR 3013  
March 12, 2025

Dear Chairman Klemin, Vice Chairs Karls and Vetter, and members of the committee:

My name is Erin Gullickson. I am a citizen of North Dakota citizen, who lives and works in a rural farming area near Minot. I submit this testimony **in opposition** to HCR 3013 and I ask for a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

"The definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman," based on the practice of Christianity disregards our individual right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." From the beginning of human creation various cultures, tribes, and kingdoms, have organized family units in a number of ways; religious groups along with more recent Euro-American history (1700's – today), place more emphasis on the control of land and wealth through marriage using females as an article of trade and tool for expansion versus the support of long-term, committed relationships between consensual parties.

I live in a sparsely populated area of ND and have the privilege of knowing a several same-sex married couples. They are local business owners, teachers, law enforcement officers, and active community members who love and care for their surrounding communities. Some couples are adoptive parents of foster children and have made stable, nurturing homes for these young lives previously cared for as wards of the state. Other couples who own local businesses have rallied community support, encouraged charitable giving, and held a multitude of benefits for those in need--far surpassing the work done by our area religious institutions.

For the well-being of all souls seeking life-long, committed relationships, let our collective voice in North Dakota speak in the practice of marriage being a union in the name of love. In basing the practice of marriage on language within Christian scripture, we need to recall Christ himself was not noted to officiate or preside over any weddings in the Bible. At the one notorious wedding in which Jesus was present, his mother encouraged he help all in attendance by turning water into wine.

Again, please do not pass this resolution.

Respectfully,

Erin Gullickson  
Benedict, ND

## Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013

March 12, 2025

Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Camille Grade, and I am here to express my strong opposition to HCR 3013. As an ally to the gay community and someone with many LGBTQ+ friends and colleagues, I am deeply concerned about the impact of this resolution on both the people of North Dakota and the economic future of our state.

Failing to recognize same-sex marriage sends a damaging message about who is welcome in North Dakota. **Our state has worked hard to attract and retain top talent, entrepreneurs, and young families.** If we signal that LGBTQ+ individuals and couples are not fully valued or protected here, we risk losing bright, hard working people to other states that offer more inclusive policies. This could hinder efforts to grow our economy, attract new businesses, and keep North Dakota competitive in an increasingly globalized market.

Additionally, repealing the recognition of same-sex marriage could create legal and financial uncertainties. Couples who were legally married elsewhere may face challenges with property rights, health care decisions, and inheritance issues. Such instability is not only harmful to families but also creates unnecessary legal burdens for our courts and businesses.

North Dakota has long prided itself on being a place where people work hard, support their neighbors, and build strong communities. We should be fostering an environment that encourages all individuals—regardless of who they love and marry—to contribute to the success of our state. HCR 3013 undermines that principle and moves us backward at a time when we should be focused on growth and inclusion.

**I urge you to not erase the hard work of your predecessors and simultaneously hinder the impact of your successors.**

**Oppose this resolution** and stand on the side of economic prosperity, fairness, and the values that make North Dakota a great place to live and work. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Camille Grade  
District 27  
Horace, ND

March 12, 2025

Dear Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HCR 3013.

I am writing to express my opposition to HCR 3013, a resolution that not only challenges well-established constitutional rights but also seeks to reopen debates that this nation has already settled. Marriage equality is not a matter of opinion—it is a matter of law, stability, and the fundamental American promise that all citizens are entitled to equal protection under the law.

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) affirmed that same-sex couples have the same constitutional right to marry as opposite-sex couples, ensuring that all families receive the same legal recognition and protections. This ruling was not merely symbolic; it provided millions of Americans with legal security regarding parental rights, inheritance, healthcare, and spousal benefits—protections that should never be subject to political shifts. Congress reinforced these rights through the Respect for Marriage Act (2022), further safeguarding families against efforts to diminish their legal standing.

Efforts like HCR 3013 do not strengthen marriage or protect families; they do the opposite. By calling into question the legitimacy of certain marriages, this resolution fosters division, legal uncertainty, and unnecessary harm to American families. It is a step backward—one that is out of step with constitutional precedent, public opinion, and the moral obligation of governance.

I recognize that discussions on marriage equality have historically been shaped by deeply held personal beliefs. However, when personal beliefs are used to justify policies that restrict the rights of others, we must acknowledge the presence of bias. Whether intentional or not, legislation that seeks to redefine or restrict marriage rights disproportionately harms a specific group of Americans—our neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family members. That is the very definition of discrimination, and history has shown time and again that discrimination, when written into law, erodes the fabric of a just society.

The role of government is not to diminish rights but to protect them. It is to ensure that laws apply fairly and equally to all citizens, regardless of personal or religious viewpoints. Upholding marriage equality does not infringe on anyone’s personal beliefs, but revoking or undermining it would directly harm those whose marriages and families depend on legal recognition and stability.

My marriage is not a debate. It is a lifelong commitment rooted in love, shared responsibility, and the same values that strengthen all families. To attack the rights of same-sex couples is to attack the principles of freedom and equality that this country stands for. HCR 3013 attempts to erode those values, sending a dangerous and unacceptable message that some families are less valid, less worthy, and less protected.

Lawmakers do not get to decide whose love is legitimate and whose rights are expendable. I will not stand by while my marriage and the marriages of others are not treated as equals. North



Dakota must be a place where all families are valued, where justice is not conditional, and where the promise of equality applies to everyone not just a chosen few.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keli Rosselli-Sullivan  
Minot, ND

RE: HCR-3013

I am writing to you as a concerned constituent regarding the proposed legislation to ban same-sex marriage. I strongly oppose any efforts to reverse the progress we have made in ensuring equal rights for all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation.

Marriage is a fundamental human right, and it is crucial that we continue to protect the ability of same-sex couples to marry and build their lives together. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry not only discriminates against them but also undermines the principles of equality and freedom upon which our country was founded.

By allowing same-sex marriage, we are ensuring that all families have the same legal rights and protections. These protections are vital for issues such as inheritance, healthcare, adoption, and legal recognition of relationships. I believe that every individual, regardless of whom they love, deserves the same rights and respect under the law.

I urge you to stand against any efforts to ban same-sex marriage and instead continue to support policies that promote equality, inclusivity, and justice for all citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you will make the right decision to uphold the rights of all people in our state.

Sincerely,

Melinda Spraggs

2505 Granite Dr NW

Minot, ND 58703

[melinda\\_spraggs@yahoo.com](mailto:melinda_spraggs@yahoo.com)

501-247-9539

I urge this legislative body to oppose HCR 3013. This resolution carries no legal weight, as the Supreme Court is unlikely to change the law based on a request from the North Dakota legislature. What it does do is a message to LGBTQ+ citizens in North Dakota that their families are second-class, not recognized, valued, or respected by the state. For young L+ persons, who are already at higher risk for mental illness, homelessness, and suicide because of societal prejudice, it sends the message that the state rejects their identities and their relationships. This resolution will create harm in a way that marriage equality never has.

I have been happily married to my wife since 2015. Our marriage has not harmed a single heterosexual or cisgender couple nor anyone else in our community. Instead, our marriage license guarantees that the two of us, who have chosen to spend our lives together, will be protected if and when the unthinkable happens. We will have hospital visitation rights, decision-making rights, inheritance rights. The person I have chosen to entrust with my life is legally entitled to make life-saving decisions on my behalf. If something happens to me, she is financially protected.

This body should roundly reject this grandstanding, nonsensical resolution.

Dear Committee Members,

I write today to urge you to vote DO NOT PASS on HCR 3013. **Choose kindness over hate.** Let men and women keep their right to a legal union with the person they love.

Sincerely,

Jim Mongeon

# **I Belong, Amen! Ministries**

[www.ibelongAmen.com](http://www.ibelongAmen.com)

In Support of HCR 3013, I, David Arthur Kendall, Founder of I Belong Amen Ministries, am submitting this testimony of truth.

Dear Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Please allow me to make everyone uncomfortable with the truth of what the lgbTQia Rainbow Movement actually is, what it does to the developing minds of children, and how those same children are being targeted, desensitized, sexualized, and victimized.

The Rainbow Movement is, by definition, a cult. I was a victim of this cult for 30+ years, and having been used & abused by it, I have the right to call it a cult. I was not only a "homosexual" man for many years, but also trans-identified for over 20 years. I was recruited by this movement and sexualized from a very young age.

This movement, especially since the Obergefell decision, has exploded into drastic and dangerous levels of perversions. We see the TQ, or TransQueer, part of this movement targeting children and attacking women's same sex spaces. We see the ia, or intersex/asexual, attacking the biological truths of human beings and providing disinformation to children. The children always suffer when this perversion continues to flourish. I saved the lgb, lesbian/gay/bisexual, for last because this is the original perversion that began this assault on children, society and laws of the land.

The lgb movement has infiltrated every aspect of our society and culture. It has saturated our government so severely that it is almost being passed off as "normal." Just look at the suffering that children have been forced to endure since Obergefell made history (and not in a good way). Even when I identified as a homosexual man I never agreed with homosexual marriage or homosexuals raising children because the dangers and the sanctity of each were extremely obvious.

Please heed my words, your decision today could start a much needed moral wildfire that could spread so quickly and in the process rescue so many children from some extremely lewd and dangerous situations. Please, give the children the right they deserve to have one mother and one father united in Holy matrimony, without them having to endure two men or women pushing their false narratives of marriage onto them. Please, I beg of you, stop the oppression that this debacle of the Obergefell decision has allowed to envelope children. Please vote for the children, as well as for the future morality of our great nation. Thank you.

In HIS Grip, David Arthur Kendall

I am a ND citizen and I oppose this resolution. Please do not support HCR 3013. It diminishes the rights of ND citizens and does not impact anyone who is not gay.

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am opposed to the government in any way defining what a loving relationship between two consenting adults should look like. Additionally, allowing the right to marry to some individuals and not to others who want to commit to one another and raise a family together is just mean-spirited and hateful. It allows the awards that come with marriage (including tax breaks, family unity, and committed partnership) to only some people and not to others. We have enough hate to go around to not be accepting of love and commitment between two consenting adults regardless of their identity or who they love.

This is hateful resolution and I would expect better from the good people of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Karyn Plumm

RE: Opposition to HCR 3013

From: Jill Nelson, Fargo

Please accept this as my written testimony opposing this resolution. This resolution is hateful, harmful, and in direct opposition of my personal values and the value of personal freedom. We need to maintain our constitutional right to the separation of church and state. If your religious beliefs are guiding you to support this resolution, please keep that business in your church and do not attend a wedding of two people of the same gender if your church were to endorse that (which I doubt it would). You are free to hate everyone you want in the name of religion, but you were voted in as a LAWmaker. You are not to make laws to force your religion on others.

Someone else's marriage cannot possibly harm you. It is none of your business, just as your marriage is none of theirs. Drop it. Leave it alone. And now PLEASE focus on things that actually matter – like education, infrastructure, and supporting the citizens of North Dakota. Not targeting people.



## TESTIMONY OF LISA EDISON-SMITH IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3013

Members of the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly,

My name is Lisa Edison-Smith and I offer this testimony in **opposition** to House Concurrent Resolution 3013. I am one of five generations of Edisons calling North Dakota home for over 100 years. I am a mother, grandmother, church elder, and an attorney licensed to practice law in North Dakota since 1997.

As a member of the bar, I stand perplexed at the apparent fixation of this legislature and our national political leaders on divisive “culture wars” instead of the important work of passing legislation for the betterment of the people of the state and nation. There is one purpose and one purpose only for this resolution: to publicly vilify the LGBTQ community in North Dakota.

This resolution has no legal meaning. It is intended to be hurtful. And it is hurtful (and frightening). It is a message to members of the LGBTQ community that we are not welcome in North Dakota. This message is powerful and creates fear about the future for ourselves and our families in this state.

As members of the LGBTQ community, my wife and I rejoiced when *Obergefell* was handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 26, 2015. We married in 2016 and live day to day as mostly retired, doting grandmothers to two beautiful grandchildren. We spend our time doing decidedly ordinary things like attending sporting events, volunteering at our church, tending our yard, and enjoying the good life in the Red River Valley.

Our marriage threatens no one and impinges on the beliefs of no one. Stable, long-term relationships are the hallmark of marriage and the foundation of strong communities. But, this resolution supports the insidious message that LGBTQ citizens are lesser citizens and our marriages are somehow a threat to the very state and country we love.

I have never before seriously thought of leaving North Dakota. Our families’ roots here are deep. But, we are afraid. We are afraid of the persistent question of “what is next?” What will our legislators, our fellow citizens, and people who purport to be our friends do next to deny our rights?

We ask for no special privilege. We want to make our retirement home in North Dakota and to continue to offer our talents, tax dollars, and resources to the communities we love. The fear of the steady and hateful erosion of our rights, however, keeps us up at night and forces us to consider where we might take refuge if forced to leave our home.

I simply ask,

IS THIS THE MESSAGE OF INTOLERANCE THAT THIS LEGISLATURE WANTS TO SEND TO ITS CITIZENS, POTENTIAL WORKERS, AND THE NATION?

I pray that it is not.

HCR 3013 is a dangerous, misguided resolution that encourages the open defiance of the U.S. Constitution by suggesting that the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly can simply “reject[ ] the United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.” This resolution is yet another example of the unceasing and tone-deaf attempts by certain “culture warriors” to divert from the real business of governing for the benefit of the people and families of the state of North Dakota.

**As you cast your vote, I ask you to remember that you are impacting real people.** People who love this state and ask only to have the same civil rights as others. This undoubtedly includes people you know, your constituents, family members, and friends. It also includes us:

**LISA & PENNY  
Married September 2016  
Native North Dakotans, Grandmas, Church Members, Taxpayers, and Voters**

I urge the Committee to remember the North Dakota value of respect for your neighbors and the rights of others and REJECT HCR 3013.

LISA EDISON-SMITH  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

March 12, 2025

Testimony in OPPOSITION to HCR 3013

Peg Haug

805 W Ave C

Bismarck, ND 58501

[peghaug@hotmail.com](mailto:peghaug@hotmail.com)

Chairman Larson and distinguished members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Peg Haug and I am testifying in OPPOSITION to House Concurrent Resolution 3013.

The definition of marriage is a very personal issue to each couple who is married or contemplating marriage. I do not want each state to have its own definition of marriage causing confusion for couples when moving or working across state lines. If a couple living in Moorhead is married, that marriage should be recognized in Fargo if that is where they work. North Dakota is trying to recruit workers, but if we don't recognize a marriage from another state, we lose out on talent that could contribute to our economy.

**My suggestion for the definition of marriage is the legal union between two (2) consenting adults.**

In reality, marriage is difficult to define.

Marriage is:

a commitment to be faithful to your partner;

being there to celebrate the good times and joys of life as well as to share or even shoulder the entire burden of the difficulties in life;

laughter and smiles as well as tears and frowns;

supporting your partner through the good times and bad times, in richness and less fortune, sickness and health;

understanding and compassion;

belief in your partner and in yourself;

togetherness and loneliness;

selflessness;

and so much more!

A Representative recently made the comments that “two cannot conceive or birth a child except for coming together of a female and a male” and “the country would not be able to perpetuate itself without men and women having children.” When he said this, I of course thought of the LGBTQ+ community, but of other couples also: a young couple a few years into marriage who find out they are infertile; and the elderly who, after being married for most of their adult life, find themselves a widow or widower with a second chance at love. He basically said they shouldn’t marry; they don’t count because they can’t have children. I don’t think we have a problem in this country procreating. Just look at Elon Musk or Nick Cannon. They are doing their share and the share of others perpetuating the population. And most of it is outside of marriage.

Marriage is not just a religious sacrament. You don’t only sign a marriage certificate for your church, you sign a legal document, a license, from the Clerk of Court which brings with it civil privileges and obligations.

When I come to the end of my life, and I’m lying on my death bed, I want to feel the hands of my partner holding my hands; I want to see their face and smile and know I made a difference in their life and they made a difference in mine; and I want to see the look in their eyes that says I love you and am loved by you.

Those things shared with my partner will bring me comfort and peace as I leave this world. I can take those things with me in my heart and in my spirit.

It doesn’t matter if that partner is male or female. It just matters that we were partners who loved each other and were there for each other until one of us was there no longer.

Subject: Testimony in Support of Marriage Equality in North Dakota

Dear Chairman Klemin and members of the ND House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the recognition and protection of same-sex marriage in North Dakota. As a married heterosexual woman with a male spouse, I know firsthand the profound significance of marriage—the love, commitment, and stability it brings to a relationship. That is why I firmly believe that same-sex couples should have the same right to marry as my husband and I do.

I have friends who are in same-sex marriages, and they are some of the most wholesome, loving, and dedicated people I know. They have built strong, supportive families and contribute positively to their communities. Their relationships are based on the same values that marriage is meant to uphold—love, respect, and commitment. To deny them legal recognition and rights simply because of their gender is unfair and goes against the fundamental principles of equality.

Marriage is not just a legal contract; it is the foundation of family and community. When two people love and commit to one another, their gender should not determine whether their relationship is valid in the eyes of the law. My marriage is not threatened by same-sex couples having the same rights—it is strengthened by a society that values love and commitment for all.

North Dakota is a state that values family, fairness, and freedom. Recognizing same-sex marriage aligns with these values by ensuring that all families are treated with dignity and respect. I urge you to stand on the right side of history and support marriage equality for all North Dakotans. Make us proud to live here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Weflen

1112 39 ½ Ave W

West Fargo, ND 58078

## Testimony Against HRC 3013

Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I come before you not just as a citizen, but as a person who believes in the fundamental values of love, dignity, and equality that our nation stands for. I strongly oppose HRC 3013, which seeks to ask the Supreme Court to reverse its ruling on same-sex marriagea ruling that has granted millions of Americans the legal recognition, protection, and respect they deserve.

For nearly a decade, marriage equality has been the law of the land, affirming that love is love, that families built on love deserve the same protections as any other, and that no government should have the power to strip away the dignity of its people. To attempt to overturn this ruling is not just an attack on LGBTQ+ couples; it is an attack on the very principles of justice and freedom that this country claims to uphold.

This bill is not just words on paper; it is a direct threat to familiesfamilies who have built their lives together, raised children together, supported one another through sickness and health, in times of hardship and joy. To suggest that their marriages are somehow less worthy, less valid, or undeserving of recognition is to tell them that their love is not real. But I assure you, it is real. It is as deep and sacred as any other.

The Supreme Courts ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges was not just a legal victory; it was a moral affirmation that LGBTQ+ people are full citizens of this country, deserving of the same rights and responsibilities as anyone else. Rolling back these protections would set a dangerous precedent, opening the door for further discrimination, legal instability, and harm to countless individuals and families.

This is not about politics. This is about peopleour neighbors, our friends, our coworkers, our children. It is about the promise that America is a place where freedom means freedom for everyone. That promise must not be broken.

I urge you to reject this bill and stand on the side of love, equality, and justice.

Thank you,  
Ashley Froehlich  
Hillsboro, ND

Hello, my name is Don Lippert, and I am writing this testimony in opposition to HR3013. This resolution is both unnecessary and unwelcome in the State of North Dakota. I may be overly optimistic about the nature of North Dakotans and the “North Dakota Nice” way of life, but as someone who has grown up through the years of fighting record setting floods in the Red River valley, I seen that sense of civic and communal spirit. We worked tirelessly trying to save homes and farmsteads where we had no real stake other than to make sure one of our fellow North Dakota s didn’t suffer a tremendous loss. These efforts aren’t just found in flood fighting, they can be seen any time a farmer needs assistance with their crops due to a medical emergency, and their neighbors come together to lend a hand because be it not for good luck, it might be them next time. They can be seen every time one of our volunteer first responders heads out to a fire or crash to take care of their neighbors because they have that sense of fidelity to their community that we see every day in big and small towns across the state.

When I see a resolution like this, it makes me wonder if those people proposing it or voting for it have ever participated in or needed the support of that communal effort that we as North Dakotans try to embody as often as we can. This resolution displays none of that community spirit that shows up when our friends and neighbors are in need. It seems born out of the opposite, the desire to excommunicate people from their communities and tell them that they aren’t wanted here, even if they were some of the same people fighting floods, putting out fires, or helping with a harvest. Again, I’d like to think we as North Dakotans can rise about this kind of division and realize that regardless of whomever we choose to marry, we are all a part of the same communities and we deserve each other’s respect and kindness.

I will close on a personal note. This resolution is written to denigrate the love and marriages of my friends, my family members and many more people all over this state who don’t deserve that condemnation for merely existing. And while it may not target me directly as a person, as part of the community that is the State of North Dakota, it does target my community, and as is written in Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”. So I urge you all to vote against this resolution for the sake of all of the citizens of North Dakota.

To the court on HCR 3013:

I have witnessed many types of relationships over my lifetime. Man and woman, same sex, non binary, interracial, same race, young and old. The relationships that I hold up in my eyes as a target to achieve are those who exhibit true love, compassion, and understanding with each other. I have seen same sex marriages fail more often in my life due to the lack of all of the basic needs for a successful relationship than I have seen other “non-traditional” types of marriages or relationships fail due to simply being non-traditional. Love is based on human connection. Love is not based on gender, but rather the character of the people who love each other.

I urge the people making this decision to remember that this country was established with the concept of individualism and freedom as the basis for the constitution. If not for this, then the “certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness looks different for everyone, and cannot be regulated to fit into a mold.

Respectfully,

Kaitlin Slama



March 11th, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am proud to support my dear friend, Heidi Ward, and her beautiful family in opposing North Dakota's HCR3013, a resolution that seeks to nullify same-sex marriages.

Heidi and her wife, Erin, have built a loving and supportive home for their 16-year-old son and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their second child. As an Army veteran, Heidi has fought for freedom and equality, and it is disheartening to see efforts like this that threaten the very foundation of her family's rights. This legislation would have a profound impact on their lives, and I stand with them in urging that love and family be respected, no matter the shape or form they take.

Please consider the impact this would have on my dear friend and her precious, growing, little family.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Craig

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write today to urge a “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013. While I currently reside on the Moorhead side of the river, I formally called Fargo my home for many years and continue to call it my home as the communities of Fargo and Moorhead are closely intertwined. I strongly support the rights of our LGBTQ+ community members, and believe this resolution is antithetical to the values of Fargo and the state of North Dakota as a whole.

The concurrent resolution states that the Declaration of Independence recognizes human dignity as innate, and that *Obergefell v. Hodges* “undermines this vision by declaring that citizens must seek dignity from the state.” From first glance, this argument makes little sense. If human dignity is innate and seeking dignity from the state undermines the very vision of our founders, then why is this legislation targeting only queer couples and not seeking to end the institution of state-recognized marriage altogether?

As a society in the United States, we have entrenched the rights and responsibilities of married couples within the law and made them accessible only through the government recognized institution of marriage. Before the enactment of the Defense of Marriage Act, the U.S. Government Accountability Office identified 1,049 federal statutory provisions where benefits, rights, and privileges were dependent on marital status. The benefits of these provisions can only be experienced by couples legally recognized as married by the government, and they *do* confer dignity upon their recipients.

For example, they allow married couples (straight and gay alike) the power to make healthcare decisions for their spouse, and the right to visit them in the hospital. They ensure that married couples have joint parenting rights, shared property, and child support. They are what allow spouses the ability to take funeral and bereavement leave, and the right to make funeral arrangements for the spouse who has passed.

I urge you to search within yourself and think of what it would mean to you if you were unable to be at the bedside of your partner as they passed. The helplessness you would feel at not being considered a parent to your child. This is the despair that you are resigning your constituents, the queer residents of North Dakota, to if HRC 3013 moves forward.

The attempt to remove these rights from some, but not all, of the married couples in North Dakota lays bare the truth that it’s not the idea of needing to seek dignity from the government that is at issue here. If it were, the fight would be against the institution of government-authorized marriage as a whole. We cannot deny that the benefits afforded to married couples under the law are protective and necessary, and they are rights that every married couple in the state of North Dakota deserves.

I once again urge you to vote “Do Not Pass” on HRC 3013, and thank you for your time, consideration, and service to the state.

Rachael Harvey

Dear North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Lee Youngs, and I am a resident of District 35. I am writing to stand in opposition of North Dakota House Concurrent Resolution 3013 that has been put forth for the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and request a do not pass recommendation for this resolution. My concern is that the resolution seeks to legalize the discrimination of same sex couples based on the religious belief of some of our citizens. The idea that marriage is between one man and one woman is religious in nature. This is why churches and other houses of worship are not forced to perform same sex marriages as is their right. Though a religious marriage and a legal marriage are often performed at the same time they are not the same thing. You can receive a legal marriage without a religious marriage and vice versa. This resolution seeks to refine a legal marriage based on a religious definition which is a violation of the First Amendment of the US Constitution which grants all US citizens freedom of religion to choose which if any religion they wish to practice. This resolution is attempting to appeal to the Supreme Court to redefine a legal marriage in a discriminatory and restrictive manner that would strip ND & US citizens of their legal rights. Under this understanding it is critical to acknowledge that no one's religious rights are being restricted under the current legal definition. As this resolution wants to redefine a legal and not a religious marriage you must consider the legal rights at stake. These include but are not limited to Social Security benefits regarding a spouse's death or disability, tax advantages which often include a reduction in taxes, qualifying for the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to allow for one to provide caregiving services for a family member, next of kin rights for making medical decisions if your spouse is incapable of deciding for themselves. These are not rights which ought to be restricted on the basis of sexual orientation or someone else's religious beliefs. Therefore, as a concerned constituent of North Dakota I would ask that you issue a Do Not Pass recommendation and vote no on HCR 3013 as it seeks to undermine the Constitutional rights of some of our citizens based on the religious beliefs of others. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Lee Youngs  
District 35

## Testimony in Opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3013

Submitted to the North Dakota House of Representatives

By Chris Kadrmas

### Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I write today in strong and unwavering opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3013, which seeks to urge the United States Supreme Court to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges* and restrict marriage to a union between one man and one woman. This resolution is not only legally and economically harmful—it is profoundly dangerous for LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly young people, in North Dakota.

### Personal Experience: A State That Once Gave Me Hope

I moved to North Dakota in 2017 from Arkansas, a state where I faced relentless harassment and bullying because of who I am. In high school, the discrimination I endured was so severe that I attempted to take my own life. I know firsthand what it feels like to grow up in a place where your own government sends the message that you are not valued, that you are not worthy of the same dignity and respect as your peers.

When I moved here, I was hopeful—my husband is from North Dakota, and I believed this state was a place where fairness, kindness, and integrity mattered. I found communities that were supportive, and I believed North Dakota could be a place where all people could thrive. This bill, however, sends a cruel and dangerous message to young people like I once was: 'You are not welcome. You are not worth it. You should be ashamed.'

### Impact on LGBTQ+ Youth Suicide Rates

There is overwhelming evidence that government-sanctioned discrimination—like that encouraged by this resolution—has a direct impact on LGBTQ+ mental health and suicide rates. According to The Trevor Project's 2023 National Survey on LGBTQ+ Youth Mental Health:

- 41% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered suicide in the past year, including 50% of transgender and nonbinary youth.
- LGBTQ+ youth who live in communities that are supportive report significantly lower suicide rates than those who live in hostile environments.
- Legislation that targets LGBTQ+ rights leads to increased suicide risk—a study from JAMA Pediatrics found that LGBTQ+ youth suicide rates increase by 14% in states that pass discriminatory laws.

HCR 3013 is not just a resolution—it is a direct attack on the well-being of vulnerable young people in our state. When lawmakers debate whether LGBTQ+ citizens deserve equal rights, young people hear it loud and clear: 'You do not belong.' The consequences of this message are measured in lives lost.

## **Economic and Workforce Consequences**

Beyond the devastating human cost, discriminatory policies like HCR 3013 also hurt North Dakota's economy and workforce development. Studies show that states with inclusive policies experience higher GDP growth, stronger business investment, and better workforce retention than states that pass anti-LGBTQ+ measures. According to the Center for American Progress, nearly 40% of LGBTQ+ workers actively avoid states with discriminatory laws when choosing where to live and work.

If this resolution moves forward, North Dakota risks losing skilled workers, young professionals, and businesses that prioritize diversity and inclusion. The economic damage would be profound, just as it was in Indiana in 2015, when backlash over an anti-LGBTQ+ law cost the state over \$60 million in lost revenue from canceled conventions and corporate withdrawals.

## **Conclusion: North Dakota Must Choose Hope Over Harm**

HCR 3013 does nothing to improve the lives of North Dakotans—it only serves to divide and dehumanize. It tells young LGBTQ+ people that they are less than, that they do not deserve the same rights as their peers, and that their government does not believe they are worthy of love and dignity.

I urge this committee to reject this dangerous and hateful resolution. North Dakota has the chance to be a state that values all of its citizens, where young people grow up knowing they are supported, valued, and safe. We must not send them the opposite message.

I refuse to let this state become the kind of place I fought so hard to escape.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Kadrmas

## **Testimony Against North Dakota Bill HCR 3013**

### **To: Honorable Members of the North Dakota Legislature**

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013, which urges the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman. I believe this resolution is a banner of stupidity raised in proud ignorance and promoted through ruthless lack of empathy and respect. It goes without saying that this undermines the progress our nation has made toward equality and human dignity for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

### **1. Upholding Individual Rights and Equality:**

The landmark decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) established that the right to marry is a fundamental constitutional right, regardless of gender. By asserting that marriage should only be defined as a union between one man and one woman, this resolution would not only dismiss the legal protections afforded to same-sex couples but would also attempt to reverse a critical decision that affirmed the dignity and rights of millions of Americans.

Equality before the law is a cornerstone of our democracy, and reversing this progress would harm not only LGBTQ+ couples but also families who deserve the legal recognition and protection that marriage provides. In a country founded on principles of liberty and justice for all, such a resolution sends the wrong message to our citizens — that some people are not worthy of equal treatment and protection under the law. This would then, in turn continue to deplete our greatest resource: our people! Young people are leaving and have left due to this message of loud ignorance.

### **2. Legal and Constitutional Precedent:**

The Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* was a decisive affirmation of the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection and due process. Attempting to overturn this ruling would be a direct attack on the principle of judicial independence and the role of the Court in interpreting the Constitution.

The question of marriage equality was thoroughly litigated and debated. The decision to legalize same-sex marriage was not just a matter of political or ideological preference but of constitutional rights. The United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Obergefell* reflects the evolving understanding of equality and human rights in our country. The hubris of our elected officials to assume that they have legal counsel to offer the court is astonishing.

### **3. The Impact on Families:**

Restoring the definition of marriage to one between a man and a woman would have far-reaching consequences for thousands of North Dakota residents and their families. Many same-sex couples in North Dakota, as well as across the nation, have built loving, committed families, and they deserve the same legal rights and protections that other families have access to.

Denying same-sex couples the right to marry and enjoy the legal benefits that come with marriage — such as inheritance rights, tax benefits, access to healthcare, and parental rights — not only harms those individuals but also the children they raise, who would be deprived of the stability and protection that a legally recognized marriage provides.

#### **4. Supporting Equality and Moving Forward:**

Rather than encouraging a return to outdated and discriminatory views of marriage, I urge the North Dakota Legislature to focus on policies that promote equality, dignity, and respect for all individuals. North Dakota can be a leader in fostering inclusivity and advancing the rights of all its citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

#### **Conclusion:**

HCR 3013 flaunts the ignorance and pride of an uncivilized minority and is a step backward for equality, human rights, and the protection of families. It is crucial that we continue to support the rights of same-sex couples and their families and ensure that all North Dakotans are treated equally under the law. I respectfully urge you to oppose this resolution and stand up for the fundamental rights of all people.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Emerson Eads  
1802 15 ½ St. SW  
Minot, ND 5870 (907) 460-8950

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in opposition to the concurrent resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman. I respectfully urge you to reject this resolution for the following reasons:

1. **Upholding Constitutional Rights and Equality:** The Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) is grounded in the principles of liberty and equality under the U.S. Constitution. By affirming the right of same-sex couples to marry, the Court upheld the fundamental right to marry as enshrined in the Constitution's due process and equal protection clauses. This decision ensures that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, are afforded the same legal rights, recognition, and dignity. Overturning this ruling would not only violate the principle of equal protection under the law, but it would also undermine the rights of countless individuals in committed, loving relationships who seek legal recognition of their marriages.
2. **Protecting Individual Freedoms and Civil Liberties:** This resolution, if passed, would restrict individual freedoms by suggesting that the state has the power to define the rights of individuals in a manner that contradicts their inherent dignity and the rights they are entitled to under the U.S. Constitution. The argument that marriage should be restricted to one man and one woman goes against the very essence of liberty as defined by our nation's founders – that all people are equal, endowed with certain unalienable rights. As such, any move to limit marriage rights based on a traditional or narrow definition would violate the rights of those who seek to marry whomever they choose, regardless of gender.
3. **State Sovereignty and the Will of the People:** While this resolution asserts that marriage should be returned to the states, *Obergefell v. Hodges* already ensured that all states must uphold the same constitutional standards for marriage. This includes recognizing marriages between same-sex couples, which are now legal in all 50 states. The notion that marriage should be a state decision is a fundamental misunderstanding of the U.S. Constitution, which ensures that certain rights—such as the right to marry—cannot be determined by the whims of any one state or its voters. These rights should be universally protected across the nation, not left to the political climate of any one jurisdiction.
4. **Historical and Cultural Context:** While the resolution claims that the definition of marriage has remained unchanged for thousands of years, it is important to recognize that marriage has always been subject to cultural and legal evolution. Many of the earliest forms of marriage were not based on romantic love or equality between partners, and marriage laws have evolved over time to reflect changing societal norms. The inclusion of same-sex couples in the institution of marriage reflects this evolution and upholds the fundamental human right to love and marry freely.
5. **Religious Liberty and Respect for Diversity:** This resolution also seems to suggest that the *Obergefell* decision infringes upon religious liberty. However, the Supreme Court decision does not mandate religious institutions to perform or recognize same-sex marriages. Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our nation's foundation, and no religious group is required to alter its beliefs or practices as a result of this ruling. What *Obergefell* guarantees is that same-sex



couples, regardless of religious background, can marry and receive the same legal protections as other couples under civil law.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to oppose this concurrent resolution. The decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* was a monumental step toward ensuring equality, freedom, and dignity for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation. Overturning it would be a step backward in the pursuit of justice and equality. The resolution would also undermine individual rights and the equal protection guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Brianna Hall  
Grand Forks, ND

**Subject: Opposition to HCR 3013 - Upholding Marriage Equality**

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013, which seeks to overturn the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* and redefine marriage as solely between one man and one woman. This resolution is not only a step backward for civil rights but also an affront to the principles of equality and justice that our nation strives to uphold.

**Marriage Equality is a Fundamental Right**

The Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* recognized that marriage is a fundamental right inherent to the liberty of all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation. By attempting to overturn this decision, HCR 3013 seeks to strip away the rights of same-sex couples to marry, relegating them to second-class citizenship. This is a direct violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees equal protection under the law for all citizens.

**Promoting Discrimination and Inequality**

HCR 3013 promotes discrimination by enshrining a definition of marriage that excludes same-sex couples. This exclusion not only denies them the legal benefits and protections afforded to heterosexual couples but also sends a harmful message that their relationships are less valid or worthy. Such discrimination has no place in our laws or society, where we should be striving for inclusivity and acceptance.

**Impact on Families and Children**

Same-sex couples, like their heterosexual counterparts, form loving, committed relationships and families. Many same-sex couples are raising children, providing them with stable, nurturing homes. Research consistently shows that children raised by same-sex parents fare just as well as those raised by heterosexual parents in terms of their psychological, social, and educational outcomes. By attempting to invalidate these families, HCR 3013 undermines the well-being of countless children who thrive in loving homes with same-sex parents.

**Respecting Religious Freedom**

While some proponents of HCR 3013 argue that it is necessary to protect religious freedom, it is important to remember that marriage equality does not infringe upon religious beliefs or practices. Religious institutions retain the right to define marriage according to their doctrines and to refuse to perform marriages that conflict with their beliefs. However, civil marriage is a legal institution that should be accessible to all, regardless of religious affiliation. The separation of church and state is a foundational principle of our democracy, and it must be upheld.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, HCR 3013 is a regressive measure that seeks to undermine the progress we have made toward equality and justice for all. I urge you to reject this resolution and to stand in support of marriage equality, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the right to marry the person they love.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

McAyla Thompson

3/12/2025

HCR 3013

Dear Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear what I have to say. Please pass this resolution so we can take this to the Supreme Court and end this tyrannical overreach imposed on all the states just like they did in Roe V Wade, whose ruling was also totally baseless and couldn't stand up to scrutiny. Regardless of what you think about homosexuals getting "married," the federal government simply does not have the power vested to it in the constitution to simply change the definition of words from on high based on moral arguments and people's feelings, and then force all the states to abide by it. The Founding Fathers would all be rolling over in their graves over this absurd nonsense.

The word which is the basis of the fundamental building block of civilization, the nuclear family unit. A word that has meant the same thing for thousands and thousands of years, throughout the entire world, in basically every country and every society that has ever existed. Nearly everyone agreed marriage is the union of husband and wife until only 10 years ago in this country, and, my oh my, have they done some damage! Even Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama campaigned on marriage meaning this and only this within the past 20 years!

Within a measly 10 years we have "teachers" "teaching" children about anal sex before they've even reached their teens in most states now! When they said, "get 'em while they're young," this is not what they meant! They are castrating, sterilizing and mutilating girls and boys before they're even 18 all over the western world and they act like it's normal! This is all a form of the ideological and pseudo-intellectual post-modernist world view that we have been infected with in the western world that "men and women are interchangeable, anything a man can do, a woman can do." And if you say no, well you're a heretic! We had a man pretending to be a woman as the United States assistant secretary of health, for crying out loud, truly, the patients were running the asylum, but no longer.

People warned we were heading down a slippery slope, they were called conspiracy theorists. "We just want the right to love who we want, why do you care what we do in our bedroom, you Bible-thumping Christians?!" they said. Keeping in mind that every non-Christian nation on earth still refuses this new, "modern" "definition," and always has. "Now it's, "you're a far-right, radical Christian nationalist, "homophobic" Nazi bigot, who is "literally threatening genocide" if you simply agree with 99% of all the people to ever exist and don't want this, and much worse, being taught to your 8 year old in a public school setting as though it is scientific fact while using your tax dollars to do it." In the same political climate where the side who claims men can become women also get to say what marriage means...I mean what are we even talking about anymore, what planet are these people on?! These are the same people who say that there are 10,000 "genders, the same ones who advocate for the mutilation and sterilization of indoctrinated/abused/mentally ill children. They made a TV show, called I am Jazz, for

entertainment purposes about a mother castrating and sexually abusing her son for crying out loud!! The conspiracy theorists were right again.

Another important point to note is that "love" is not part of the fundamental definition of marriage and therefore is irrelevant to this argument, a man and a woman who despise each other can still get married, though I wouldn't recommend it.

"Who would've thunk it," changing the definition of a word, that is fundamental and foundational to the structure of society, to mean the literal opposite of what it means, unconstitutionally, by abusing legislative power on the federal level would cause problems. Another important point is that this is not how words work. You cannot just legislate the meaning of words. And with something as fundamental as marriage, it is basically legislating an entire belief system that directly contradicts what most people believe, just look at the polls!

The definition of marriage is EXCLUSIONARY of all other unions ON PURPOSE! I don't know how to make this any clearer. Just because two men \*want\* to be "married," even if they think it is "unfair," even if it makes them sad, or they think it is cruel. The whole point of the word and the definition of its meaning is in defining a unique type of union that has the intrinsically unique quality that no other union has, the ability to create life within it, no other union is capable of procreation, no other union can create growing families and new generations to inherit and continue the civilization that has been built within itself. Put two men on an island, leave, and come back to two skeletons, put a man and a woman on an island, and come back to a village. Every single child ever born has a biological mother and a biological father, every single one. Not two dads, not two mothers. This is undeniable, it is not about feelings, if these facts of reality offend you, then be offended if you must.

Let the liberals cry as much as they need to. We have tried being politically correct and have been pathetically capitulating to them for decades, and every time we give them an inch they take a mile. They will call us intolerant, "homophobic" bigots for simply standing with the truth and saying, "no, marriage is between a man and a woman, always has been, always will be." That's just too bad, so be it. Enough with all this sexual degeneracy and perversion! Thank you for your work to restore common sense and dignity to our institutions.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Fennell  
Email: [knowledge.apprentice@gmail.com](mailto:knowledge.apprentice@gmail.com)  
Phone: (701) 847-0752

## Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013

Submitted by: Abigail J. Eads

Minot, North Dakota

Date: March 12, 2025

Chairperson and Members of the North Dakota Legislature,

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HCR 3013, which urges the United States Supreme Court to redefine marriage as a union between one man and one woman. This resolution is unnecessary, harmful, and deeply out of touch with the reality of the world we live in today. It sends a clear message to LGBTQ+ North Dakotans that their love and their families are somehow less valid, less worthy of legal recognition, and less welcome in our state. That is not the North Dakota I believe in.

Marriage equality has been the law of the land for nearly a decade, and in that time, it has strengthened families and communities. It has given couples legal protections, ensured children have secure households, and affirmed that love and commitment are what define marriage—not outdated restrictions. This resolution does not protect marriage; it seeks to strip rights away from people who have done nothing but want the same dignity, recognition, and security that others have always had.

This is not just a theoretical debate—it affects real people. LGBTQ+ North Dakotans are our neighbors, coworkers, teachers, business owners, and friends. They are in our churches, our schools, our workplaces, and our families. They contribute to our communities in every way imaginable. And right now, they are being told by their own government that their marriages are up for debate, that they are less deserving of the same rights and respect as everyone else. That does real harm—not just legally, but emotionally and socially.

As North Dakotans, we value fairness, respect, and community. The Supreme Court settled this issue in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and most Americans—including many North Dakotans—have moved forward in support of marriage equality. This resolution is not about strengthening families; it is about taking rights away. It is a step backward when we should be focusing on policies that support and uplift all of our citizens.

I urge you to reject this measure. Let's not waste time reopening old wounds. Let's be a state that values and respects all of its people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Abigail J. Eads

Lindsey Lee

307 14<sup>th</sup> St S

Fargo ND 58103

To the Senate Judiciary Committee voting on HB 3013:

I am writing to testify about my strong opposition for HB 3013. I believe that everyone, regardless of their orientation, deserves to marry the person they love. It's a fundamental issue of human rights and dignity. This bill threatens the progress we've made toward equality and could open the door to discrimination against my friends, neighbors, and your constituents. Please stand up for the rights of ALL North Dakotans by voting to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Lindsey Lee

Dear members of the Senate and ND Judiciary Committee

I am writing to you as a long time resident of North Dakota, urging you to vote "Do Not Pass" on HCR 3013.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and every other human on earth, deserve the rights the nation has given them when it comes to marriage. My fellow Americans should not be having their right to marriage pulled away from them. This bill is both shameful, and harmful.

LGBTQIA+ folks deserve the same rights as heterosexual folks. That includes marriage. Do NOT pass HCR 3013.

Your constituent,

Megan Fuller

Jamestown, ND

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 3013. I am a transplant from the state of Idaho and have been a resident of North Dakota for over ten years now. I own a business in West Fargo, ND that has been around for ten years, a mother to two boys, and a bonus mom to another boy and two girls. I received my bachelor's degree in business administration from North Dakota State University in 2021. My significant other is currently serving in the Air National Guard and has also served in the US Coast Guard before that.

In passing HCR 3013, it would signify a step backwards in the progress that we have made in providing fair and equal opportunities to everyone that is a resident of our state. As a small business owner, it is my duty and responsibility to provide fair and equal opportunities to anyone that I may employ. In the ten years as an employer, I have had people work for me that are heterosexual, gay, non-binary, and queer. I will strongly say that their sexual orientation has no bearing on my opinion about who they are as human beings, nor has affected their personal ability to do great work.

Each person that is part of the LGBTQ community deserves the same opportunities as heterosexual people. Denying them the option to marry the person they love is unfair. Deciding the rights of other humans should not be based on a verse or verses in the bible and should not be based on a religious opinion. Church and state are separate and should remain that way. Religious bias has no place in politics and each bill that you have the responsibility of voting for should only have consideration for the benefit of the most amount of people it affects, not your personal religious beliefs. If you personally believe that people of the same sexual orientation should not get married, then make that decision for yourself and do not restrict other people from making that decision for themselves. It will not affect your ability to live your life, but it will affect someone else if you vote to take that away. Love is love. Live and let live.

I urge you to vote "nay" so that we can continue progressing as a community that gives everyone equal and fair opportunities. I want to be proud of the representatives that we vote for in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time,

Danell Phelps

West Fargo, ND



Please Do not try to overturn gay marriage. Please allow people to marry who the love. I'm upset that you're trying to overturn this

I stand firmly opposed HCR 3013, there is surely no reason to be moving backwards with a bill like this. Things like this are purely a waste of time and taxpayer money. What does marriage between same sex partners do to hurt anyone? Nothing, and if you say otherwise, you are a bigot.

Hope Clark  
Minot, North Dakota

12 March 2025

To the Honorable Members of the North Dakota Legislature,

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing to you as someone who has lived in North Dakota my entire life. I was born in Grand Forks at United Hospital, moved to Williston after the flood in 1997, and later came to Minot for the Quentin Burdick Job Corps program. That's where I earned my GED and learned the skills I needed to build a life here. Minot has been my home ever since, and I've stayed because my family is in the area.

I'm also gay, and I have to tell you—I felt angry and betrayed when I heard about House Concurrent Resolution 3013. Seeing the House vote in favor of a resolution asking the Supreme Court to overturn marriage equality felt like a slap in the face. What message does that send to me, my friends, and my family? That we don't belong here? That our marriages don't matter? That North Dakota doesn't believe in freedom and fairness for all its people?

I know some people have personal or religious beliefs about marriage, and I respect that. But the government shouldn't be in the business of taking rights away from people who are just trying to live their lives. Overturning marriage equality wouldn't help anyone—it would only hurt families like mine.

I love North Dakota. This is my home. And I'm asking you—please vote "Do Not Pass" on HCR 3013. Stand up for all North Dakotans, including the LGBTQ+ people who live, work, and raise families here.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Hope Clark  
Minot, North Dakota

Teresa BlackCloud  
North Dakota Citizen  
teresa.blackcloud@gmail.com  
Fargo, ND 58104

March 12, 2025

Subject: Testimony Regarding Senate Bill

Dear Senate Judiciary committee members:

I am writing to express my opposition to HCR 3013, which proposes that the Supreme Court of the United States in *Obergefell v. Hodges* was incorrect in its interpretation to rectify the unequal treatment of same-sex couples under the law and thus should be told to change it back to an exclusionary practice. Frankly, even in summary, it is clear that this bill is misguided, most glaringly in its failure to address the issues raised within the Supreme Court opinion, including the historical context informing the move towards marriage equality. A vote for this bill is a huge step backwards as all North Dakotans deserve the protections and benefits of marriage, no matter diverse religious opinion.

My husband and I are North Dakotans through and through, proud of the communities that helped us grow into the people we are today and proud of our marriage. In 2015, we married 48 years after *Loving v. Virginia* that ruled bans on interracial marriage were unconstitutional, a landmark case that is younger than both our parents. It's almost impossible to think that at one time, our marriage would have been considered unlawful in parts of the country as my husband and I from different racial backgrounds. My rights as a woman in my marriage have changed drastically throughout our country's development, which has strengthened marriage and its responsibilities, not weakened it. As discussed in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, marriage as an institution has evolved as American society has evolved in our understanding of justice and the human experience, quelling fears based on limited perspectives and instead unifying in support of human rights.

As cited in this bill, I, too, believe in the religious freedoms granted by the Constitution; however, the aims of this bill seem to undermine that concept by putting one religious perspective above the rest. During the *Loving v. Virginia* case, religious opinions were also levied against interracial relationships, as "unnatural" in the eyes of God. My own religious integrity is not compromised by granting marriage equality because my religious values are my individual right to practice in my own life. It begs the question how religious freedoms are being infringed upon in expanding marriage equality and why it is necessary for the government to exclude same-sex couples based on the religious opinion of others. The only perceivable goal of this bill is to prioritize the point-of-view of one religious faction and not to improve the lives and freedoms of all North Dakotans and Americans. This bill is frivolous in nature and actively hurts our communities, leading to further division.

In sum, I strongly urge you to REJECT HCR 3013. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding North Dakota's role in upholding marriage equality.

Teresa BlackCloud

March 12, 2025

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write today in opposition of HCR 3013 and to ask, to plead, that your committee give it a “do NOT pass” recommendation. Vote NO for the future of North Dakota.

I am a proud, life-long North Dakotan. I have never turned my back on North Dakota, though it has often turned its back on me. I like to think that I have lived a life North Dakota would be proud of. I graduated from a small K12 school from which I was very active in multiple organizations on a national level. I always traveled with my North Dakota State flag, ready to tell stories to anyone who asked. I have sung “Got to go ta, North Dakotaaaa” off key in front of thousands. I am the fourth generation to farm the same land outside of tiny Rocklake, North Dakota. This fall, generation number five rode in the combine with me. What is more traditional than five generations on a farm?! I also hold a graduate degree from the University of North Dakota in American History. Specifically, I specialized in Agricultural and North Dakota History. I served as the Graduate Teaching Assistant for UND’s History of North Dakota course for three semesters. A life of doing everything North Dakota has asked of me, except I love the wrong person.

I am currently the Director of Admissions at a university in North Dakota. Did you know, Senators, that 81% of students nationally have said that a state’s political decisions are a driving factor to whether or not they enroll? Prospective students, the hard-working young people you so wish to attract, are saying No to North Dakota as they watch us land on the wrong side of history.

Lastly, I would plead that you take a moment to review the 279 pieces of testimony submitted for this bill. A mere 28 of these entries are In Favor of this resolution. Of those 28, 12 are from out of state entities. Of the remaining 16, half of those are “doubles” from individuals. Simple math tells us that 8 North Dakotans cared enough to support this backwards-thinking resolution. That is a lot of opposition you will need to answer to. And we will expect an answer, Senators. I’ve lived my life for North Dakota. Let me live here.

With Hope and Respect,

Alyson Leas, M.A.



Dear Chair of Political Subdivisions and Committee Members,

I urge a 'Do Not Pass' on HCR 3013. This resolution sends a message to the Supreme Court to overturn marriage equality and sends a message to the residents of our state that the legislature does not view LGBTQ+ people as deserving of their rights. It's a message that is harmful to our people, LGBTQ+ or not. A message that has already caused harm by passing in the house.

In response to its passage in the house, over 1,000 people and counting signed a letter of support for our LGBTQ+ community. Even this large number of people only represents a small slice of the supporters of marriage equality. We, the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition, its members and allies, call on you to be kind to your neighbors, call on you to show love to those who choose to love who they wish, regardless of gender.

Included in this testimony is the letter of support, and its many signers.

Please vote 'Do Not Pass' on HCR 3013.

Sincerely,  
Dalton Erickson  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Human Rights Coalition

## **You Belong Here**

On Monday, February 24, the North Dakota House of Representatives, on a 52-40 vote, passed a resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to “restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.” We, the undersigned residents of North Dakota, are angered and saddened by this action. We know this does not reflect the will of North Dakota voters and we urge the North Dakota Senate to vote NO when this resolution comes to their chamber.

To our family, friends, and neighbors in the LGBTQ+ community, we see you. We love you. And we want you to stay in North Dakota. We are here to fight alongside you for your right to thrive in your own communities. Whether you grew up here or made a choice to move here, you belong here.

To our legislators who are choosing to waste taxpayers’ time and money on hateful, unnecessary legislation: we urge you to refocus your energy on efforts that actually benefit and improve the lives of your constituents. This resolution – alongside the effort to allow harmful conversion therapy practices – is not it. You work for the people of North Dakota and we demand better.

Signed

Heidi Heitkamp – Mandan

Darwin Lange – Mandan

Tom Dickson – Bismarck

Naomi Welsh – Grand Forks

Phyllis Johnson – Grand Forks

Ashley Jordet – Fargo

Jackie Beller – Fargo

Katherine Dachtler, LCSW, LICSW – Grand Forks

Jennifer W – Grand Forks

Maura Ferguson – Grand Forks

Dani Krause Bismarck

Sue Roehl – Wahpeton

Emily Johnson – Grand Forks

Nicole Hoefs – Grand Forks

Becca Cruger – Grand Forks

Valerie Bauer – Grand Forks

Hillary Kempenich – Grand Forks

Barb – Fargo

Gina Uhlir – Grand Forks

Ben Schille – Grand Forks

Amanda Wilkison – Fargo

Terry and Sheila Dachtler – Grand Forks

Nick Adams – Grand Forks

Robin David – Grand Forks  
Laura Hermanson – Mandan  
RoxAnne Moore – Grand Forks  
Ra'Chel Alexander – Grand Forks  
BJ Armani – Grand Forks  
Lasha Oss – Grand Forks  
Charles Vondal – Grand Forks  
Frank Galbraith – Grand Forks  
Karrianna Iseminger – Grand Forks  
Jesse Porter – Grand Forks  
Hannah James – Fargo  
Heidi Lamb Castle – Grand Forks  
Barry Nelson – Fargo  
Lisa Johnson – Grand Forks  
Glen Henry and Fayme Stringer Henry – Grand Forks  
Lise N- Grand Forks  
Brandon S. – Grand Forks  
Carrie Knudson – Dickinson  
Tanya Engelhart – Bismarck  
Jenna Laurin- Fargo  
Steven Halcrow – Grand Forks  
Johnathan Schilling – Grand Forks  
Rev. Dr. Gretchen Daneke Graf – Grand Forks  
Dr. Shawnda Schroeder – Grand Forks  
Stacey Heggen – Devils Lake  
Klarissa P. – Bismarck  
Dawn Mandt – Grafton  
Aaron Kempenich – Grand Forks  
Gina – West Fargo  
Courtney Davis – Grand Forks  
Tawni Harvala- Grand Forks  
Amber Flynn – Grand Forks  
T. Blue – Grand Forks  
Chelle LeMier – Fargo  
Wendy – Grand Forks  
Jane and Stanley Hirst – Minot  
Mike Wozniak – Grand Forks  
Erin Laverdure – Stanton  
Malls LeMier – Fargo  
Mary Friesz – West Fargo  
Heather Carr – West Fargo  
Lisa M. – Grand Forks  
Sloan Henry – Grand Forks  
Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt – Grand Forks



Eric Castle – Grand Forks  
Theresa Knox – Grand Forks  
J. Cornell – West Fargo  
Kathleen Coudle-King – Grand Forks  
Felix & Samantha Ballesteros – Bismarck  
Nate and Melissa Callens – Fargo  
Jasmine Spice – Grand Forks  
Kristi Wilfahrt – Grand Forks  
Mare Thompson – Grand Forks  
Abigail Porter – Grand Forks  
Molly Haagenson – Grand Forks  
Andrew Dahl – West Fargo  
Sargianna Wutzke – Bismarck  
Angie Schmidt Benz – Moffit  
Sabrina Herrmann – Minot  
Raeanna Jacobi – Fargo  
Jodee Bock – Fargo  
Amy Ranum-Martineck – Valley City  
Joel and Carol Braaten – Rugby  
Kathryn Kenna – Grand Forks  
Amanda Schmitcke – Bismarck  
Beth Moe – Grand Forks  
Bethany M. – Mooreton  
Anne Arneson – Grand Forks  
Vytalli Klimpel – Minot  
Kelsey Clifford – Grand Forks  
Alisha Kania – Fargo  
Erin Freadhoff, LMSW – Fargo  
Jill Gordon – Fargo  
Misty M Johnson – Grand Forks  
Karin – Grand Forks  
Alexius Rae Friesz – West Fargo  
Tricia Halvorson Lunski – Grand Forks  
Kristi and Keli Rosselli-Sullivan – Minot  
Kate Dusenbury – Grand Forks  
M.N. – Minot  
James and Lissa Walsh – Bismarck  
Rev. Grace Morton – Fargo  
Tricia Berg – Grand Forks  
Jaime Trueblood – Grand Forks  
Jeffrey Powell – Grand Forks  
Lisa Bernhardt – Grand Forks  
Selena King – Gilby  
Brian and Shannon Grave – West Fargo

Tracy Athmann – Fargo  
Travis Herrmann – Minot  
Carsen Grave – West Fargo  
Donna and John Richter – Bismarck  
Meghan B – Grand Forks  
Cindy DuBois – Cavalier  
Jennifer Tarlin – Grand Forks  
Robin W. – Grand Forks  
Tiffany Olsen – West Fargo  
Mary Elizabeth Gamas – Minot  
Ryan MacLeod – Grand Forks  
Laura G. – Grafton  
Sarah Grossbauer – Grand Forks  
Bailey Turner – Grand Forks  
Amanda Myhre-Peltier – West Fargo  
Carenlee Barkdull – Grand Forks  
Bret Weber – Grand Forks  
Autumn Horton – Grand Forks  
Sonja Mahlum – Bismarck  
Alexandra Rice – Grand Forks, ND  
Niska K. – Grand Forks  
Shaydora Todd – Minot  
Corina Feist – Grand Forks  
Christina M Swendra – Fargo  
Fran Joersz – Bismarck  
Molly Hirsch – Fargo  
Letha Brenner – Larimore  
Patty R. – Jamestown  
Kimberly Forness Wilson – Grand Forks  
LoAnn F. – Bismarck  
Beth Welte Andrys – Larimore  
Brianna Hall – Grand Forks  
Terry Roningen – Bismarck  
Megan Otto – Fargo  
Amy S. – Bismarck  
Kristin Nelson – Fargo  
Darci Asche – Gwinner  
Amber Haskell – Grand Forks  
Zachary Tomczik – Grand Forks  
Kathryn Vasquez – Grand Forks  
Michele R. Willman – Grand Forks  
Birgit Pruess – Fargo  
Kelly and Ginny Coles – Fargo  
Margaret Jackson – Grand Forks

Jaime Bender – Bismarck  
Kyle & Stephanie Slivnik – Grand Forks  
Cathy Williams – Grand Forks  
Stephanie Homstad – Grand Forks  
Mary Lee Clarens – Fargo  
Laura Bucholz – Horace  
Melissa Gjellstad – Grand Forks  
Allyssa J – Grand Forks  
Sarah Sletten – Grand Forks  
Amy Phillips – Fargo  
Diane Clinton – Bismarck  
Stephanie Little – Bismarck  
Codi Nowacki – Fargo  
Daniel Rice – Fargo  
Susan Schulte – Grand Forks  
Linda Hoffman – Bismarck  
Shera Nesheim – Grand Forks  
Karen Kooren – Fargo  
Kari and Dane Breker – West Fargo  
Miranda Kleven – Grand Forks  
Susan O. – Fargo  
Jessica Nolz – Grand Forks  
Danielle Sorum – Grand Forks  
Martha Berryhill – Fargo  
Kathy Holle – New Salem  
Debra Pankoe – Hankinson  
Mara Glasow – Davenport  
Stella Cantu – Minot  
Carlie Carow – Fargo  
Pastor Sarah Raymond – Thompson  
Anita Mjolhus – Killdeer  
Danielle P – Fargo  
Courtney Monroe Ryckman – Lincoln  
Ali Hoffman – Bismarck  
Katie Steig – Casselton  
Robin Larson – West Fargo  
Megan Callahan – West Fargo  
Cathy & Eric Lee – Davenport  
John Strand – Fargo  
Holly Haugen – West Fargo  
Laurie Furuseth – Williston  
Liz and JP Legerski – Grand Forks  
Sandy Hansen – Valley City  
Jan Macdonald Russell – Davenport

Rachel Navarro – Grand Forks  
Nancy Jardine – Fargo  
Justin Keintz – Grand Forks  
Ligia Feo – Grand Forks  
Emily Frazier – Fargo  
Dr. Grant Syverson – Fargo  
Susan C. – Grand Forks  
Carin Engler – Fargo  
Christina Morris – Barney  
Madison Engler – Fargo  
Mark Engler – Fargo  
Michelle Rydz – Grand Forks  
Kat P. – Grand Forks  
Alex B. – Grand Forks  
David Partlow – Fargo  
Mariah H. – Bismarck  
Joe – Bismarck  
Tera – Wahpeton  
N. Lambrecht – Fargo  
Paul Hoplin – Grand Forks  
Christopher B. – Fargo  
Jessica B. – Fargo  
Kathy Becher – Fargo  
Ginny S. – Fargo  
Monica and Phil Hart – Fargo  
Tracie Bettenhausen – Bismarck  
Erin Thompson – Hillsboro  
Janna Diggs – Fargo  
Ashley M. – Grand Forks  
Shauna Erickson-Abou Zahr MS, LMFT – Fargo  
Dylan Dachtler – Grand Forks  
Karen Newman Midgarden – West Fargo  
Jennifer J. Lies – West Fargo  
Joann Jameson – Fargo  
Judith Sinclair – West Fargo  
Nikki Berglund – Horace  
Shyanne Oversen – Killdeer  
Lisa Mystic – Fargo  
Kristy Berger Jelinek – Grafton  
Kristen Uecker – Fargo  
Cameron Moore – Dickinson  
Kristin M. Wentz Krumwiede – Bismarck  
Madonna L. – Bismarck  
Evelyn G Alt – New Leipzig

Ray Ann Christmann-Wolf – Bismarck  
Jason Wolf – Bismarck  
Susie Dorsey – Grand Forks  
Keelah K. – Velva  
Maddie Wolf – Bismarck  
Nicole Stoe – Fargo  
Melissa Ahonen – Lincoln  
Caitlin P. – Fargo  
Danielle Wyatt – Mandan  
Marcia Patrie – Bismarck  
Jenny – Grand Forks  
Ambrosia Boehm – Mandan  
Franka B. – Grand Forks  
Sébastien Reese – Grand Forks  
Chad Carr – West Fargo  
Chelsea Gagner – Bismarck  
Susan Engen – Fargo  
Debbie Swanson – Grand Forks  
Morgan Olson – Grand Forks  
Amanda L. Hanson – Fargo  
Abigail Becher – Fargo  
Judy Henry – Fargo  
Maddie Hafner – Bismarck  
Boe Herbranson – Wahpeton  
Cindi Psychos – Jamestown  
Matthew Edward Kania – Fargo  
Natalie Gruchow – Fargo  
Lynne Tally – Jamestown  
Becca W. – Grand Forks  
Amy Wells – West Fargo  
Jennifer Landphere – West Fargo  
Sara Frank – Bismarck  
Laurie Watkins – Grand Forks  
Sadie – Grand Forks  
Nicole Nowacki – Grafton  
Amy Jacobson – Fargo  
Shantel Kuntz – Bismarck  
Shara Fischer – Fargo  
Abby Oase – Killdeer  
Peter Van Eerden, MD – Horace  
Hugo Sarmiento – Horace  
Stephanie Geller – Bismarck  
Brenda Stallman – Hillsboro  
Destiny Waddle – Minot

Kaaren Swanson Duren – Fargo  
Desi Fleming – Fargo  
Brian Patterson – Fargo  
Renee Stromme – Bismarck  
Leslie Hellebush Hertz – Mandan  
Shaina Winning – Fargo  
Mariah Ralston – Bismarck  
Amy Walker – Mandan  
Gail Pederson – Valley City  
Megan Jeromchek – Mandan  
Cindy Berglind – Bismarck  
Mary Eagleson – Jamestown  
Katrina Feist – Bismarck  
Zoë Absey – Fargo  
Paul Sum – Grand Forks  
Lee and Debra Huber – Bismarck  
Whitney and Travis Oxendahl – Fargo  
Nikki Berg Burin – Grand Forks  
A. Krtizberger – Hillsboro  
Cynthia Prescott – Grand Forks  
Merie K. – Grand Forks  
Angela Harrison – Grand Forks  
Elizabeth Kapp – Jamestown  
Becky Mahlum – Bismarck  
Bailey Andrews – Grand Forks  
Sarah Reitmeier – Fargo  
Aleya Leibfried – West Fargo  
Matt Herman – Grand Forks  
Meghan Smith – Minot  
Anastassiya Andrianova – Fargo  
Nick P. – West Fargo  
Kallista Olson – West Fargo  
Amanda D. Schmidt – Underwood  
Kyhlie Imsland – Horace  
Sheree Anderson – Park River  
Michael C Anstadt and Merle G Beyer – Wahpeton  
Kelli Marchand – Minot  
Krista Olson – Fargo  
Tasha Gahner – Fargo  
Roberta Pytlik – Fargo  
Christie Aleshire – Grand Forks  
Ashley Dhuyvetter – Minot  
Joy McSparron – Hillsboro  
B. Roesch – Fargo

Morgan Larson – Fargo  
Danelle Johnson – Horace  
Heather and Eric Tyulyandin – West Fargo  
Zach Raknerud – Minot  
Breanna Kompelien – Fargo  
Sam Richter – Surrey  
Lindsay Fleming – Minot  
Charissa Hoglund – West Fargo  
Ingrid S. – Fargo  
Cindy Roholt – Fargo  
Molly Nies – Grand Forks  
Cindy Jensen – Grand Forks  
Karen Anne Nies – Bottineau  
Sarah Heitkamp – Petersburg  
Michaela Swanston – Fargo  
Debbie Johnson – Fordville  
Ashley Steffenson – Bismarck  
Bergit Sobak – Fairdale  
Kristie Wolff – Mandan  
Michael Marcotte – Grand Forks  
Heidi Selzler-Echola – Fargo  
Crystal Alberts – Grand Forks  
Kadin Hafner – Fargo  
Jenni Momsen – Fargo  
Leilani Mafnas – Grand Forks  
Valerie Morman-Sampson – Devils Lake  
Julia Postelnicu – Grand Forks  
Cora Turner – Fargo  
Dani Halverson – Grand Forks  
Mx. Rachel G. – Fargo  
Jeff Mystic – Fargo  
Brianna McLaughlin – New Salem  
Jessica Domitrovich – West Fargo  
Meredith Larson – Grand Forks  
Nicole L. – Grand Forks  
Callie Jore – Grand Forks  
Betsy Leiss – Bismarck  
Kim Donehower – Grand Forks  
Elizabeth Samuelson – Fargo  
Lydia Leopold – West Fargo  
Gayle and Cory – Jamestown  
Stephanie Bayman – West Fargo  
Katie Kelsh – Fargo  
Melissa K Marto – West Fargo

Sandra – Fargo  
Ross Keys – Bismarck  
Austin Dhuyvetter – Grand Forks  
Steph Furstenau – Fargo  
Aaron Furstenau – Fargo  
Sue Q. – Fargo  
Amanda M. – West Fargo  
Ava Nelson – Grand Forks  
Diane Davies-Luger – Fargo  
Nick Swenson – Fargo  
Rev. Martin Avery – Mayville  
Antonia Wagener – Grand Forks  
Carly Charleston – Fargo  
Scott Kleindl – Abercrombie  
Jennie Archer – Bismarck  
Hayley and Kailyn Ohm – West Fargo  
Michael Zerr – Fargo  
Tatum O'Brien – Fargo  
Lexi Walker – Grand Forks  
Wesley and Kelly Scholand – Hatton  
Allen Ralston – Fargo  
S. W. – Grand Forks  
Haley H. – Hatton  
Cheryl Heskin – Hatton  
Kaitlyn Bayman – West Fargo  
Josh Sewill – Hatton  
Tom and Marie Amundson – Grand Forks  
Meghan Stewart – West Fargo  
Julia Miller – Fargo  
Jack Weinstein – Grand Forks  
H.P. – Mayville  
Hannah Scholand – Hatton  
Tonya Melland – Fairdale  
Michael Sewill – Hatton  
Jess Storlien-Dotson – Horace  
Penny Frey – Bismarck  
Keah Gartner – Bismarck  
J. Van Winkle – Menoken  
Kristi M. – Bismarck  
Terry Jacobs – Bismarck  
Alyson Wilson – Casselton  
Lindsey S. – Bismarck  
Casie Davis – Bismarck,  
Marlena Zaun – Bismarck



Brian Price – Bismarck  
Kayla F. – Minot  
Jane J. – Bismarck  
Jamie J. – Mandan  
Dawn E. Ackard – Bismarck  
Mika S. – Bismarck  
Heidi Llewellyn – Minot  
Carina Wittmier – Bismarck  
Mary – Grand Forks  
Amy and Kyle Sample – Fargo  
Jessica Smestad – Burlington  
Rissa Williams – Mandan  
Chris Gable – Grand Forks  
MJ Huffman – Minot  
Jennifer Kramer – Wilton  
Jessica Parizek – New Town  
Anna Gust – Grand Forks  
Jessica Springer – Wyndmere  
Melissa K. – Minot  
Nancy C. – Minot  
C.K.- Grand Forks  
Carson Wells – Grand Forks  
Paulette Knutson – Fargo  
Serena F. – Weatherford  
Adam Steen – Bismarck  
Nancy H. – Bismarck  
Bryan – Bismarck  
Ashley Peyer – Driscoll  
Tanya Fraizer – Fargo  
J. Miller – Hazen  
Cynthia Reese – Grand Forks  
Donna Sewell – Minot  
Sarah Rippley – Bismarck  
Haley R. – Bismarck  
Whitney Nelsen – Cando  
Nikki Marie – Bismarck  
Sasha – Bismarck  
Jen L. – Bismarck  
Sally Rippley – Bismarck  
Alexandria Houser – Minot  
Nick and Cate Jangula – Bismarck  
Keeley Sperle – Bismarck  
Rosie Houser – Fargo  
Hazel P. – Washburn

Chandler M. – Bismarck  
Amanda Perry – Bismarck  
Kevin – Bismarck  
Sarah Wobbema – Bismarck  
Dan Wobbema – Bismarck  
Anne R. – Hazen  
Nicole Derenne – Grand Forks  
Danielle Bayman – West Fargo  
H. Budeau – Bismarck  
David and Amber Augustadt – Bismarck  
Kathy Bayman – Fargo  
Kandace Pister – Bismarck  
Mariah Coad – Bismarck  
I. Houser – Fargo  
Rachel Helling – Golden Valley  
Diandra H. – Bismarck  
Kourtney Meyer – West Fargo  
Derek J Pich – Bismarck  
Melissa K. – Bismarck  
Prairie Rose Seminole – White Shield  
Bridget Murray – Fargo  
David Steffenson – Mandan  
Siobhan Deppa – Fargo  
Jennifer Restemayer – West Fargo  
G.C. – Minot  
Laurel McAndrews – Fargo  
Brandy and Matthew Chap – Bismarck  
Mercedes Moller – Mandan  
Ian Berry – Fargo  
Neil Wittmier – Colfax  
Amanda Vivier – Horace  
Erika Bjornson – Dickinson  
Katherine P – Grand Forks  
Mary Sayler – Bismarck  
Rachel E Swanson – Bismarck  
Trevor N. Olson – Fargo  
Heather Sand – West Fargo  
Jill L. Baldwin – Geneseo  
Danielle C. – West Fargo  
Valerie Barbie – Bismarck  
Alexis Muehler – Bismarck  
L. G. – Bismarck  
Evan Condry – West Fargo  
Marley and Karl Lund-Peterson – Fargo

Chelsey M. – Hettinger  
Robert Newman – Petersburg  
Shelby Stewart – Abercrombie  
Dr. Brian K. Moe – Fargo  
Brenda R. Ferguson – Grafton  
Kaeleigh S. – Fargo  
Miranda Vanderhyde – Fargo  
Matilda Treat-Frost – Grand Forks  
Jonathan N. – Fargo  
Carey Goetz – Bismarck  
Amy and Scott Austin – New Salem  
April Rude – Beulah  
Wakely Robert Pister – Bismarck  
James C. – Bismarck  
Brianna K. – Fargo  
Emily Tron – Fargo  
Ryan Taylor – Bismarck  
Faye Geiszler – Bismarck  
Luke & Crystal Hotchkiss – Grand Forks  
Karla Huncovsky – Mandan  
DeeAnn Werre – Bismarck  
Erin Oban – Bismarck  
Mike and Jessica Gilbertson – Bismarck  
Daniel Rogers – Mandan  
Cheryl Biller – Fargo  
Trampas Johnson – Bismarck  
Megan F. – Jamestown  
Denise Powell – Fargo  
Victoria S. – West Fargo  
Heather Joslin – Jamestown  
Jason Powell – Fargo  
Alex Bacon – Jamestown  
Steve S. – West Fargo  
Kjersti Hintz – Bismarck  
Scott H. – Jamestown  
Dejay V. – West Fargo  
Maggie O'Leary – Grand Forks  
Jazmyn Schuchard – Richardton  
Karen Dunlap – Bismarck  
Danna Fitterer – Bismarck  
Dr. Penny Briese, PhD, MS, BSN, RN, CHSE – Jamestown  
Victoria Powell – Fargo  
Paula Baker Prince – Bismarck  
Jessica Zuroff – Beulah

Jesse Zuroff – Beulah  
Brad M West – Fargo  
Julie Schirado – Mandan  
Dan Sturgill – West Fargo  
Brad Mills – Jamestown  
Rebecca Salinas – West Fargo  
Katie Winbauer – Bismarck  
Kyle Debertin – Bismarck  
Khloe Winbauer – Bismarck  
Liz Beckert – Bismarck  
George Barnes – Jamestown  
Brooke VanLooy – Grand Forks  
Pam Phillips – Jamestown  
Christopher and Christina Pieske – Bismarck  
Kaelee Heidt – Bismarck  
Cody Riggle – Fargo  
Anh Nguyen – Fargo  
Lacey Renae Garrison – West Fargo  
Dr. Daniel Bartholomay – Grand Forks  
Kaylie Johnson – Grand Forks  
Janie Maitland – Minot  
Salena K Gustaveson – Dickinson  
Candi Finley – Bismarck  
Kasey Johnson – Fargo  
Kim Weismann – Bismarck  
Hannah Klipfel – Fargo  
Dierra Diegel – Fargo  
Tony F. – Bismarck  
Laurie Z. – Bismarck  
Erin Price – Bismarck  
Kelsey Menge – Bismarck  
Aaron Barclay – Williston  
Mary Haslerud Opp – Grand Forks  
Kim – Bismarck  
David Kanenwisher – Fargo  
Margaret Marcusen – Dickinson  
Rebecca Barnes – Bismarck  
Kennedy Zuroff – Beulah  
Brenda Weiler & Derek Harnish – Fargo  
Olivia Jordre – Grand Forks  
Nicole Thompson – Bismarck  
Melody Schiwal – Bismarck  
Micki Dykshoorn – Menoken  
Hannah B. – Valley City

Kennedy Lacher – Mandan  
J. H. – Williston  
Brittany Winder – Mandan  
Joe I. – Mandan  
Jessica M. Burhans – Fargo  
Stephanie Miller – Bismarck  
Dr. Megan Degenstein – Fargo  
Lori S. Ihli – Minot  
Shannon VanHorn – Fargo  
Brian and DeeAnn Baier – Grand Forks  
Emily C. – Epping  
Shannon Jung – Norwich  
Danica Johnson – Fargo  
Allison Dykshoorn Grenz – Mandan  
Kia Herbel – New Town  
Kate Weigel – Beulah  
Vicki Olson – Mandan  
Julie Herbel – New Town ND  
Alex Deufel – Minot  
Robert Norman Campbell – Minot  
Alex Gilseth – Minot  
Katie and Everett Dotson – Minot  
Heather Herbel – New Town  
Mary C Tintes – West Fargo  
Tanya Diegel – Valley City  
Amanda M. Corey – Grand Forks  
Chelse Weigel – Beulah  
Sarah Campbell – Minot  
Chantia McMonagle – Fargo  
Erin Brurud – Williston  
Jeremiah Conway – Minot,  
Hannah Gilseth – Garrison  
Janice Knecht – Fargo  
Jenni Lou Russi – Valley City  
Kalyn Dewitt – Minot  
Rev. Rachel Simonson – Minot  
Jenn Bailey – Minot  
Kristin Michels – Minot  
Rev. John Simonson – Minot  
Myles Barcomb – Minot  
Maren Weber – Minot  
SJ Adams – Fargo  
Kelly Matala – Minot  
Jamie Schmidt – Fargo

Kacey Donamaria – Minot  
Debby Michels – Minot  
Lura Spears – Bismarck  
Laura Dronen – Fargo  
Rena Aarfor – Fargo  
Amy Michels – Minot  
DeLori Baer – West Fargo  
Jazmine Schultz – Minot  
Mateo Jaramillo – Fargo  
Savannah S. – West Fargo  
Amanda Davis – Williston  
Denise A. Dykeman – Minot  
Brent Roningen – Bismarck  
Jacalyn Barnes – Jamestown  
Rebekah Charchenko – Bismarck  
Lisa Michels – Minot  
Conrad Eggers – Bismarck  
Val W – West Fargo  
McKenzie Herz- West Fargo  
Jill Pelerine – Bismarck  
John Lindsey – Fargo  
Marcy Dronen – Fargo  
Krista Opstedal – Minot  
Kamden Baer – West Fargo  
James Opstedal – Minot  
Justin Anderson – Burlington  
Miranda Miller – Fargo  
Barbara Eltz – Fargo  
Christopher Coen – Fargo  
Rose – Fargo  
Roxanne Meinert – Minot  
Joey Nesdahl – Minot  
Kelsey and Alex Buchholz – Minot  
Melissa Haskins – Velva  
Melissa Bliss – Minot  
Jenna K. – Fargo  
Bill & Jo Wyeth – Mandan  
Phoebee Stensland – Grand Forks  
Michelle H – Williston  
Amanda Schlieman – Minot  
Amy Boyle – Velva  
Isabella Anderson – Burlington  
Zach Schuchard – Richardton  
Mindy Eggers – Bismarck

Jennifer Olson – Velva  
Taylor R Feller- Velva  
Evan Putt – Minot  
Tiffany Towne – Bismarck  
Lisa Hermosillo – Minot AFB  
Jeremy Putt – Minot  
Kimberly E – Williston  
Kim Blue – New Town  
Alexis Eberle – Bismarck  
Dyann Fladland – Fargo  
Lisa Davies – Fargo  
Heather Ohlhauser – Minot  
Jordan Smith – Minot  
Ericka Booker – Minot  
Janet Anderson – Burlington  
Amanda L. – Burlington  
Christine Cherry – Minot  
Arlene Correia – Fargo  
Karen Johnston – Minot  
Randi Monley – Minot  
Cris Gifford – Minot  
Xander Price – Williston  
D.G. – Fargo  
Shawna Bergquist – Hazen  
Kita M. – Bottineau  
Laura Elizabeth Grasl – Bismarck  
Shylah Anderson – Mandan  
Jessica Donamaria – Minot  
Tara M Fox – Minot  
Sierra S. – Williston  
Dylan Hennessy – Berthold  
A. Estabrook – Bismarck  
Steve and Kari Files – Minot  
Conlan Jensen – Mandan  
Camden Gifford – Minot  
Laura Wendt – Grand Forks  
Chad Gifford – Minot  
Kjersten Nelson – Fargo  
Angela Schnaible – Minot  
Rev. Kim Gifford – Minot  
Dyana Decoteau-Dyess – Minot  
Rev. Aaron and Nichole Bye – Grand Forks  
Jim and Sherry Heilmann – Minot  
Erik A. – Minot

Sarah Miller – Hazen  
Jill McDonald – Glenburn  
Tiahna Aughinbaugh – Jamestown  
Susie Sharp – New Rockford  
Sadie N. – Fargo  
Jay G. – Fargo  
Jessica R. Babin – Bismarck  
Frank L. – Parshall  
E.H. – Jamestown  
A.H. – Jamestown  
Dorothy Suggs – Grand Forks  
McAyla Thompson – Minot  
Kathy Hintz – Minot  
Ian Thompson – Minot  
Hannah S. – Minot  
Linda Olson – Minot  
Teale Wold – Watford City  
J Bruce – Horace  
T Bruce – Horace  
Bo Lauckner – Bismarck  
Cassie Rauser – Grenora  
Vanessa Clemmensen – Watford City  
Madeline Goltzman – Fargo  
Kaleigh Nelles, MD – Fargo  
Rev. Ellery Dykeman – Minot  
Brooke Sloboden – Minot  
Darian Sloboden – Minot  
Hannah Opp – Grand Forks  
Tim Mathern – Fargo  
Alex and Matthew Benson-Tuff – Fargo  
Deb Hoffarth – Minot  
Kirsten Lee Azure – Belcourt  
Nikki Taylor – Bismarck  
Brad Hoffarth – Minot  
Aaron Michels – Minot  
Sarah Belfrage Honerman – Minot  
Karen Thunshelle – Minot  
Jason Thoms – Bismarck  
John Woods – Bismarck  
Rev. Gretchen Deeg – Bismarck  
Casey B. – Fargo  
Karee A. – Fargo  
Jake King – Fargo  
Katie S. – Bismarck



Nichole Gubbels – Fargo  
Haley Klassen – Fargo  
Sierra Deringer- Bismarck  
Rick and Jan Bonebrake – Minot  
Olivia Delorme-Heitkamp – Bismarck  
Casey Baker – Williston  
Laura Christensen – Lincoln  
Samantha Obrigewitch – Bismarck  
Erin Pringle – Bismarck  
Breanne Burns – Velva  
Tricia Bibeault – Bismarck  
Nikita Swanson – Crosby  
Michael Ozaki – Grand Forks  
Brandy Guzman – Stanley  
Levi Anderson – Fargo  
Julee Russell – Valley City  
Tom. Cook – Fargo  
JaNae Boswell – Rolla  
Kylene R. – Fargo  
Dr. Victoria Arneson – Williston  
Erin Bruner – Balfour  
Cheri Bonebrake – Minot  
Brook Mahoney – Bismarck  
Vicki Michels – Minot  
Gina Sandgren – Fargo  
Dakota T. – Carrington  
Kelly Ozaki – Grand Forks  
Craig L. – Grand Forks  
Alyssa Klossgaard and Reilly Klossgaard – Bismarck  
Ansen D Boehm – Fargo  
Tim Clark – Fargo  
Faith Weigress – Bismarck  
Bryce Weigress – Bismarck  
Jenna and Grant Nieters – Bismarck  
Traci Lund – Crosby  
R. Weisgerber – Bismarck  
Brittany Henke – Lincoln  
Tammy and Marty Toepke-Floyd – Jamestown  
James Miller – Hazen  
Andre Kehn – Grand Forks  
Chelsey Rongen – Fullerton  
Rhonda Wolfe-Hartley – Minot  
Ben Fagerland – Minot  
Shawn Miller – Mandan

Andrew Monson – West Fargo  
Alisha Downs – Minot  
Casey Ozaki – Grand Forks  
Carla Moorhead – Minot  
Hope Schiele – Bismarck  
Kristen Miller – Mandan  
Peter and Karla Coen-Tuff – Grand Forks  
Jadea Sommer – Bismarck  
Audra Durhman – Fargo  
TJ Wood – Minot  
J Smith – Bismarck  
Sara Lang – New Salem  
Kali Sivertson – Minot  
Michelle Gandadal – Minot  
Lana G. – Fargo  
Christine Kujawa – Bismarck  
Laura G. – West Fargo  
Erika Moulton – Voltaire  
Taylor W. – Minot  
Lonnie Delorme – Bismarck  
Tanaya Nordstog – Crosby  
Chassidy S. – Grand Forks  
Karrie B. – Grand Forks  
Lindsay McAlpin – Grand Forks AFB  
Emily Kulas – Thompson  
Jordan Bentz – Fargo  
Nicole L . – Rolette  
Rev. Sylvia Bull – Bismarck  
Caiden Kosie – Fargo  
Madison Kosie – Fargo  
Taleah Zaugg – Crosby  
Anna – Fargo  
Ashley Heitkamp – Fargo  
McKayla Scanson – Fargo  
Helen W. – West Fargo  
Katherine Ely – Fargo  
Marti Misuraca – Minot  
M. Cole – Pick City  
Bryce V. – Fargo  
Steve W. – Minot  
Bobbi Prochnow – Hankinson  
Ally – Minot  
Jessica J. – Minot  
Anthony Vandal – Crosby

Janet Mathistad – Minot  
Reverend Beth Walch – Bismarck  
Kristi Garrison – St. John  
Amber P. – Belcourt  
Cole Delorme – Mandan  
Andrea Parks – Grand Forks  
Nick Birkhimer – Fargo  
Shanna Greenwood – West Fargo  
Jay Greenwood – West Fargo  
Alex Johnson – Williston  
Virginia Conn – Minot  
Betsy Debertin – Bismarck  
Brie Mason – Fargo  
Samantha Dhuyvetter – Watford City  
Lindy Nygaard – Fortuna  
Michelle M. Sauer – Fargo  
Justine Bentz – Watford City  
Howard and Jarri Newton – Dickinson  
Allison Ozaki – Grand Forks  
Jessica O'Day – West Fargo  
Teha B. – Bismarck  
Zach Thompson – Fargo  
Kelly D. – Mandan  
Otto Lieder – Grand Forks  
R. Singh – Grand Forks  
Megan W – Grand Forks  
Mary Verlinde – Bismarck  
Deven Mantz – Minot  
Cassie & Nick Bremer – Fargo  
Kylie Oversen – Fargo  
Cassandra A. Coghill – Fargo  
Carleen Soule – Mandan  
Debra Greenwood – Dickinson  
Kathy Fick – Grand Forks  
Amanda Wiedmeier – New Rockford  
Kelly Ellwein – Bismarck  
Christina Holmes – West Fargo  
Kaily S. – West Fargo  
Mary Dalglish Bergstrom – Grand Forks  
Mikaela Brandner – Bismarck  
Ali Monroe – Bismarck  
Jennifer White – Grand forks  
Heather and Ashley Rost – Fargo  
Aleaha White – Grand Forks

Katie Christensen Mineer – Fargo  
Patrick Mineer – Fargo  
Laurie Brustad Kennedy – Grand Forks  
Jane Johnson – Fargo  
Karen Sanderson – Minot  
Jim and Sue Goodale – Bismarck  
Hanna Magnuson – Hillsboro  
Angela Barrett – Buxton  
Erin Trandem – Fargo  
Jaci Oakland – Langdon  
Olivia S. – Jamestown  
Kendra Greenlee – Fargo  
Melissa Burkland – Fargo  
David Schloegel – Jamestown  
Stacie M Hansen – Valley City  
Kimberly Kaseman – Jamestown  
Kasandra Gregoire – Grand Forks  
Joni Johnson – Fargo  
Jayme Krsnak – Fargo  
Mary Prestrude Friesz – Lisbon  
Julie Reichert Scheef – West Fargo  
Melanie May Fischer – Fargo  
Ann Wendel – Kathryn  
Christina Severson – Bismarck  
Sheri Ocampo – Bismarck  
T. Brandner – Fargo  
Avery – Valley City  
Mary Lee Nielson – Valley City  
Rodney Grafin – Valley City  
Lisa B.N. – Valley City  
Minda and Jason Villiard – Fargo  
Monica Haugen – Casselton  
Brent Haugen – Casselton  
Michelle Bauer – Kenmare  
Cassie Campbell – Grand Forks  
Shelli Herman- Bismarck  
Kellie Michelle Larson – Grand Forks  
Rocky Burchill – Valley City  
David Serhienko – Valley City  
Arlette Preston – Fargo  
Cooper Wieck -Fargo  
Laura B. – Mandan  
Stephanie Morse – Jamestown  
Jessica Genett – Grand Forks

Hayley Ross – Lakota  
Andrea Dvorak – Bismarck  
Dave and Kim Adams – Fargo  
Brenna Hayman – Dickinson  
Patrick Hart – Bismarck  
Tammie Hill – Bismarck  
Andrea Christensen-Janowicz – Walcott  
Jennifer A. – Valley City  
A.N. – Valley City  
Holly Gulland – West Fargo  
Amanda Elken – Jamestown  
Hilde E. Van Gijssel – Valley City  
Amolia Schumacher – Fargo  
Charles Sanderson – Devils Lake  
Sharon Benjamin – Minot  
Jon Aus – Valley City  
Kali Robinson – Fargo  
Beverly Larson – Grand Forks  
Kacie M. Schaeffer – Bismarck  
Chris M Stoner – Grand Forks  
Michelle Stenberg – Grand Forks  
Sarah VanCleave – Bismarck  
Brittney Benz – Dunn Center  
Angela Holm Rohde – Valley City  
B.R. – Valley City  
Gabi Mosbrucker – Bismarck  
Amanda – Minot  
Emily Ramage Geltel – Williston  
Jededia Batchelder – Bismarck  
Jeanine Jensen – Bowbells  
Jennifer Peterson – Valley City  
Billie S. – Grand Forks  
Connie Marie Nelson – Minot  
Christy Dirk-Senn – Bismarck  
Allison Grabow – Bismarck  
Amanda Rathbun – Minot  
Kalyn Botz – Valley City  
Allison Harrison – West Fargo  
Lacresha Graham – Bismarck  
Shaun Harrison – West Fargo  
Rhonda Buhr – Michigan  
Elaine Larson – Michigan  
Tanya Johnson Martinez – West Fargo  
J. Daniel Schwartz – Bismarck

Lissa V. – Williston  
Brita Audette – Williston  
Angie P. – West Fargo  
Logan Dore – Minot  
Meridee Erickson-Stowman – Tower City  
Jamie Lange – West Fargo  
Mary Jo Dailey – Mandan  
Heidi Grondahl – Williston  
Kaitlin Kilber – Bismarck  
Bret Weber – Grand Forks  
Courtney Kilber – Mandan  
Andrea Placher – Williston  
Rochelle Lipka-Allen – Williston  
Bryston Allen – Williston  
Katharyn K. – Grafton  
Quentin Wilkie – Grand Forks  
Beth Nodland & John Morrison

Our friends from out of state, most of whom work or previously lived in North Dakota

Dalton and Katie Erickson  
Monique Sauvageau  
Lindsay Bell, BSW  
Erin N.  
Laurie J Baker  
Gail Wischmann  
Wanda & Collin Dobrovolny  
Lorilee Bergin  
Erin Zejdlik  
Natasha Dutch  
Alice Christianson  
Sarah Schaan  
Lyn Dockter – Pinnick  
Tyrell Edinger  
Blaine D.  
Stacy Pigue  
Marc de Celle  
Susan Rae Helgeland  
Beth  
Finnian R.S.  
Beth B.  
Heidi Richter  
Kodi Boit  
Katlyn Balstad  
Dr. Marcia Mikulak

Julia Ozaki  
Hadley Mineer  
Tanya Leick

Madame Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Lindsey Bertsch and I am a District 3 resident in Minot, North Dakota. I was born and raised here. I am writing to strongly urge a Do Not Pass recommendation for HCR 3013. I recall a representative's words on the House floor a few weeks ago regarding this resolution, where he said that he's not against same sex couples, he just thinks they should have to define their partnerships as something other than marriage. If you find yourselves swayed by this statement, I would advise that you personally could simply refer to another's marriage by a different word. If you would like to call a same sex marriage by a different word, you are more than welcome to - that is your first amendment right. But working towards denying the legal allowances that come with marriage to a married couple (whether they are same sex or otherwise) is an authoritarian infringement on basic dignity and human rights.

I would ask you to consider this - have you personally been negatively affected by the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision that allowed same sex marriage? The answer is likely no. I understand that a major motivation in the advancement of this resolution, and its intention to influence the Supreme Court, has to do with concerns regarding children raised by parents in same-sex marriages. There are countless studies affirming that children whose parents are in same-sex marriages fare as well as children with different-sex parents. One academic study published in 2023 synthesizes many of these studies and lists them in the references. I will attach it [here](#). You can peruse the list of references of extensive studies made available there. Similarly, a Cornell University research project compiled *peer reviewed* studies (this was a major criteria for studies to be included, as is described in the project's methodologies) published since 1985. It found 75 studies affirming that children raised by couples in same-sex marriages fared as well as children raised by couples in different-sex marriages. Only four peer reviewed studies were found supporting the claim that children of couples in same-sex marriages fared worse than children of couples raised in different-sex marriages. You may peruse this Cornell research project and its included studies [here](#). It is also worth noting that those four studies contained some obvious issues in their own methodologies.

I hope you listen to your constituents. As of 11am on Wednesday, March 12th, there are 279 written testimonies submitted for HCR 3013. This does not include my testimony that I am currently writing in opposition to HCR 3013. I understand there will likely be more uploaded between now and when constituents can no longer submit, but I would like to break down the numbers for you as they currently stand.

Of the 279 written testimonies submitted as of 11am on Wednesday March 12th, 2025:

- 29 are in favor of HCR 3013. Eleven of which are from out of state individuals, which means 38% of submitted in favor testimony so far has come from out of state.
- 251 are in opposition to HCR 3013. Nine of these are from out of state (two of which are just across the Red River from Moorhead, MN). This means that 4% of submitted in opposition testimony has come from out of state

I hope you consider these numbers and choose to prioritize the demands of your constituents, those of us who actually reside in North Dakota.



Finally, I hope Madame Chair and members of this committee can simply recognize how truly and utterly silly HCR 3013. Is it yet another blatant example of North Dakota being used as a testing ground for ridiculous, time-consuming, and wasteful legislation to see if it will be possible in red states with larger populations. I am not just urging, but *demanding* a Do Not Pass Recommendation for HCR 3013 - on behalf of a majority of your constituents. Perhaps you could request a resolution like this be put on the ballot, so that way you could see for yourselves where North Dakotans stand - if the written testimony to this resolution isn't enough for you.

Thank you,  
Lindsey Bertsch  
District 3 Minot  
Real Resident of North Dakota

Chairwoman Larson, members of the Judiciary Committee, and members of the Senate,

I'm writing in **opposition to HCR 3013** and encourage you to do the same.

The law of marriage was created and remains to be a legally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal relationship and includes civil rights such as tax benefits, medical benefits, and other legalities/benefits given to married persons. The law has evolved over time to give these rights to **all citizens** (to women, to interracial couples, and to the LGBTQ community).

Whether a marriage should be a blessed union is a decision for churches/religions. The state does not need to debate this aspect as the civil rights are the same when you get a marriage license regardless of your ceremony being at a temple, park, church, or the courthouse. This is also not about reproductive biology as we're not debating science, and the state's job is not to debate religious intent. Those arguments have nothing to do with the legal rights and definition of marriage.

Additionally, what benefit does the general public receive by reversing this law? How are they personally affected in a legal and civil sense?

Again, I respectfully encourage you to oppose HCR 3013.

Janet Bassingthwaite

Bismarck, ND

Senate Judiciary Committee

March 12, 2025

HCR 3013 – Testimony in Opposition

Kayla Solem, LCSW, LAC

Chair and members of the committee, my name is Kayla Solem. I reside in Williston, ND and have lived in North Dakota all of my life. I work as a mental health therapist and addiction counselor. I am writing in opposition to HCR 3013.

This resolution does not represent the vast majority of North Dakotans and doesn't carry the weight of the law yet holds a bold statement of hate towards the LGBTQ+ community. My job puts me in a unique position to help and care for others. Individuals in the LGBTQ+ community are at risk for negative mental health outcomes such as suicidal ideation and self-harm in part by lack of support from their communities. This resolution puts this group at risk for furthering negative mental health outcomes and stigma.

We have a variety of professionals from multiple professions working in the state who identify with this community. These are our neighbors, doctors, teachers, community members, etc. We should be welcoming them, not creating additional barriers for those who want to live in our state. I am deeply concerned and frustrated due to the possibility of losing professionals around the state who provide a variety of services for the people of North Dakota.

In conclusion, I would strongly urge the committee to give a Do Not Pass recommendation for HCR 3013. North Dakotans deserve a welcoming state where individuals have the right to love who they love, not having politicians decide.

Thank you for your time.

Kayla Solem, LCSW, LAC

March 12, 2025

To all members of the North Dakota Senate

I am a long-time resident of North Dakota and am asking you to vote No on HCR 3013, which is a resolution that would urge the Supreme Court to restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.

I understand that this does not carry legal status and would not directly impact marriage equality in our state, but what it does do is tell all of the wonderful same sex couples I know and love that they aren't welcome here. I grew up believing that North Dakota was a welcoming state with neighbors who were always willing to help. This resolution sends a very different message to anyone who is not straight. Why would talented young people in the LGBTQ community want to stay here or move here with this unwelcoming message?

Please do the right thing and vote against HCR 3013

Thank you  
Jane Hirst

March 12, 2025

Dear Senate Judiciary Chairperson Larson and members:

I am Michelle Holman, a queer North Dakotan in strong opposition to HCR 3013.

This resolution disregards the equality that all citizens of the United States have and deserve per the Supreme Court's ruling from 2015. Intentionally stripping the rights of any citizens is deeply un-American, for our laws exist to protect every citizen. Let's also not overlook the simple fact that no single entity owns marriage. Secular or non-secular, marriage should not be exclusionary or weaponized. No American law should hold any religious bias or foundation.

Marriage strengthens families and communities across all 50 states. One couple's happiness should not be contingent on another person's intolerance. If you still don't like gay marriage, just remember: you have the freedom to not be gay married.

Thank you for your time and consideration of a DO NOT PASS vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Holman  
ND District 35

Dear North Dakotan Senators,

My name is Kennedy Foss, and I have been a citizen of North Dakota for my entire life. I am writing today to urge our state's Senators to oppose HCR 3013 because I believe the definition of marriage is a union between two people – no exceptions.

As a straight woman, I know I am exactly as my God intended me to be, and I believe that God does not make mistakes. I believe this is true for all North Dakotans, all Americans, and all people. My brother, Austin Foss, is a gay man and a North Dakota Representative. He is happily married to his husband, Ryan. And that is their right. They have the same right to love and marry as I do—because that is how we are made. Because that is what freedom means. No one should have to change or hide who they are simply because someone else's beliefs don't approve.

It is appalling that our state government is wasting time on a resolution that seeks to diminish the rights of a specific group of North Dakotans. Trying to reverse progress and make people feel unwelcome in their own home state is not just wrong—it is disgraceful.

I urge our Senators to oppose this resolution. It would harm countless North Dakotans and serve no purpose other than to appease those who feel better when others have fewer rights. North Dakota should be a place of fairness, dignity, and freedom for all.

Thank you for your time,

Kennedy Foss

North Dakotan Citizen

HCR 3013 (2nd testimony?)

I am writing to oppose HCR 3013 for several reasons.

The United States Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 135 S.Ct. 2584 (2015), does NOT conflict with the United States Constitution because it does not conflict with the Enlightenment principles upon which the United States was established.

Liberty has long been understood as individual freedom from governmental action, including freedom from a governmental decision that rights are dependent upon who the holder of those rights is.

Reversing the Supreme Court's *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision invokes a definition of liberty the framers of the United States Constitution would not have recognized, rejecting the idea captured in the Declaration of Independence that human dignity is innate, and instead suggesting it comes from the government. Recission of basic human rights is anti-Constitutional.

The framers of the United States Constitution proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights and refer to the laws of nature and God, to which all men are subject and the potential reversal of *Obergefell v. Hodges* undermines this vision by declaring that specific groups of citizens must seek dignity from the state.

And because I understand that this HCR asks the Supreme Court to reverse their decision to allow all citizens the same rights in the United States of America is a religious based request, not one based in either law or our founding Enlightenment principles and so violates the clause prohibiting establishment of religion. It violates my right to practice my religion as I see fit.

I am certain that, if it is followed, this Concurrent Resolution would refuse a substantial number of citizens those same rights as their peers and requires me to oppose HCR 3013. I ask that you do the same.

LeeAnn Clark  
916 5th Ave West  
Williston, ND, 58801  
leeannreneeclark@gmail.com  
12 March 2025

Chairman Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: Opposition to ND HCR 3013

Dear Chairman Larson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013.

I am a lifelong North Dakota resident. I was born in Grand Forks and lived there until the age of 12 when the Flood of '97 washed us to the shores of Williston. I have lived in this state for 40 years now. I love North Dakota. I love how in the East you can watch the sunrise and sunset put on a light show in a wheat field that is so beautiful, it takes your breath away. I love how in the West, you can step into the backyard of the Badlands and feel like you are in a cathedral. I don't even mind our winters (although I could do without experiencing the winter of '96-97 again). I believe they build character, courage, and resilience.

I love our people. I love our audacity. Our perseverance. Our communities. Our neighborliness. Our North Dakota Nice. I see none of that North Dakota Nice in HCR 3013. I see a cruelty. A callousness. A level of indifference and disregard that stuns me. How does HCR 3013 support our neighbors, our families, our friends, or our communities? While this resolution specifically targets the LGBTQ+ community, it harms us all. It sends the message that in North Dakota, you are only free to a fulfilling and joyful life with the one you love if you just so happen to be heterosexual. It sends the message to everyone else that, while they may live here, they do not have the right to that same happiness.

I have a young son, who will soon be turning three. I want him to experience everything wonderful in this world, but most importantly, I want him to know what it is to love and be loved, to be kind and experience kindness, and to be a good neighbor. HCR 3013 is the opposite of every one of those values. Please do not create a North Dakota that is hateful and exclusionary. There is plenty of room at the potluck for everyone. I'll bring the tater-tot hotdish. You can bring the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

I respectfully ask that you vote **NO** on ND HCR 3013 and reject this harmful resolution. Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to serving the people of North Dakota.

Sincerely,  
LeeAnn R. Clark

District 1, Williston



March 12, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the North Dakota Senate and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge a **“Do Not Pass”** on HCR 3013.

I am writing to express that I stand strongly in opposition of passing HCR 3013. I was born and raised in North Dakota. Growing up I was constantly shown to be kind to one another, treat others equally and to be loving and accepting. ND is home to numerous same-sex couples. We are interweaved in daily life throughout the state. We are taking care of others and saving lives within the healthcare systems, we are supporting the economy and providing resources in the oilfields and energy industries, we own our own businesses, we are a part of the essential workforce in the service industry, and we are alongside you holding government jobs. It is where my family currently resides. Passing this bill will send a message that we are not welcome here. Marriage is a private decision between two partners. It is not a union solely for religious reasons or for bearing children, as both of these foundations vary indefinitely within opposite-sex marriages as well. Obergefell v. Hodges provides same-sex couples equivalent legal protection, parental rights, healthcare and spousal benefits as opposite-sex marriages. It should not be the government's decision on whether two consenting adults can or cannot establish this union. Marriage is defined as an intimate or close bond. To promise your spouse that **love will always win**. Who we love is not up for debate by legislature. A difference in personal beliefs should not be allowed to dissolve these unions. I urge you to review the letter posted on [www.ndhrc.org](http://www.ndhrc.org) that has more than one thousand signatures from residents of ND that support the LGBTQ+ community. This shows that the passing of HCR 3013 is not in the best interest of a majority of this state. We have elected you as officials to uphold our rights as people of ND, not erode them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Brooke Tooley

A lifelong North Dakota resident, loving mother, and proud partner

**TESTIMONY OF PENNY ANDRIST IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3013**

Members of the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly,

My name is Penny Andrist and I offer this testimony in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013. I was born and raised in ND – a state I have lived, worked and volunteered in for my entire life. I have been an educator, business owner, entertainer and Coordinator of Children’s Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo, ND.

My entire life’s work has been to nurture children and adults; to encourage them to be the best possible versions of themselves that they can be. I’m hoping today that I can also encourage you to be the best you can be.

I believe that the goal of major systems like government, education and religion should be to see ALL people flourish. It should be the first thought in your mind before you push your voting button. **“Will this harm anyone?”**

This resolution has no legal implication. It only stands to be mean-spirited and hurtful. It’s a terrible message to send to people that they are not as worthy. And yet, these same people in the LGBTQ community are and have been living here. They have been working, paying taxes, voting, volunteering, raising families, going to church and helping their neighbors. I suggest an alternative message to the intolerant one this resolution sends: *“Thank you.”* Perhaps gratitude for sticking it out in a state that has not been that friendly to these people, yet they contribute generously to society – perhaps that is what you could express in your rejection of HCR 3013.

I am a member of the LGBTQ community. I married my wife shortly after the Supreme Court handed down *Obergefell*. Our wedding was attended by Democrats and Republicans, including my father, John Andrist, who was a well-respected Senator in ND for two decades. There was an overwhelming sense of joy in the room. Just as I believe there is overwhelming support by the citizens of ND for this community. If you don’t recognize that, perhaps you don’t really have your finger on the pulse of your constituents.

Our marriage threatens no one. It does not impinge on others’ beliefs. I want nothing more than what you have. But I don’t want less. Please respect the rights of all people and REJECT HCR 3013.

Penny Andrist  
West Fargo, ND

Dear Senate Members,

North Dakotans have long celebrated their state's deserved reputation for being a safe and nurturing place to raise a family. At present, under the protection of federal law, the prospect of parenting is a reality for all our LGBTQ+ relatives, friends, and neighbors living in the Peace Garden State. By taking action to encourage the dismantling of the Obergefell v. Hodges decision, North Dakota will discourage married same-sex couples from raising children here. Because of this, among other reasons, I stand in opposition to HCR 3013. I'm certain that many among the Senate can recall fond memories of their mother's and father's expressing their love and support to them throughout their formative years. North Dakota's youth, especially those in dire need of a welcoming adoptive family, deserve the same. We would be irresponsible to limit the possibility of offering such an opportunity to our kids.

According to an April 9<sup>th</sup> article published by kfyrtv.com last year, there are close to 1,300 children in the North Dakota foster system. This number aligns with the metric adoptuskids.org reports as of today, March 12, 2025. The national foster care advocacy group states there are 1,250 kids in the ND foster care system with 385 waiting to be adopted. Knowing any child is growing up without the love and support of consistent parental care should inspire our Senators to seek out all possible avenues to ensure that every young North Dakotan can experience the essential function of a family. Nationally, according to data provided by UCLA's Williams Institute, same-sex households adopt at a rate of 21%. This is a stark comparison to their different-sex counterparts, with only 3% pursuing this socially crucial parenting option. The value our married gay, lesbian, and queer couples bring to our nation's adopted youth is immense.

Considering the data mentioned above, if our state's 671 married same-sex couples (according to the 2020 U.S. census) adopted at the national rate, 140 of the 385 children waiting for adoption would be welcomed into loving North Dakotan homes. This amounts to over a third of kids in need of a family. Approving the House's concurrent resolution 3013 will strike down any possibility of meeting this positively life altering potential. If anything, the legislative body should be encouraging same-sex couples to adopt and supporting those who already have.

Thank you for reading and considering my testimony. On a personal note, I am the son of an adoptive father who I credit as a major contributor to my success as an adult today. Additionally, I'm blessed to call many same-sex married couples my friends, and have all the confidence in the world that they would be, and in some cases are already, incredible parents to their adopted children.

Sincerely,

Anthony Rohr

Resident of Fargo

March 12, 2025

Testimony in OPPOSITION to HCR 3013

Sara Kaiser

Grand Forks, ND

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Sara Kaiser and I am submitting written testimony as a private citizen in OPPOSITION to House Concurrent Resolution 3013.

I strongly oppose HCR 3013. North Dakota should be a welcoming place for ALL of its residents. The state should stay out of family relationships. North Dakota claims to be full of loving and caring residents—this resolution is full of hate. This is a hateful resolution and has no place in our state. A society that values justice and equality cannot tolerate laws rooted in prejudice, exclusion, and hate.

Continue to make North Dakota a place I am proud to call home. Hateful resolutions like 3013 make it difficult to want to stay and raise a family here. Hateful laws targeting LGBTQ individuals have no place in our state.

Sincerely,  
Sara Kaiser

In opposition to HCR 3013

March 12, 2025

Attn: Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in opposition of HCR 3013. This is a fruitless resolution that does not carry any weight with the Supreme Court, but it *does* send a message to your constituents and to those outside of North Dakota: “You are not welcome here.”

It seems as though some North Dakota legislatures think of the LGBTQ+ community as a small, minority population. While it is true it is minority population, that cannot be confused as small. A Gallup poll from this year estimates that 9.3% of the American population identifies as part of the LGBTQ+ community. But listing a percentage does not do the scale justice. According to the U.S. Census website, the current U.S. population is 341,465,550 people. This means that there are an estimated 31,756,296 people in the United States that identify as LGBTQ+. To put this into perspective, 31,756,296 is a larger population than:

- Every state besides California
- Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland *combined*
- North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Montana, Idaho, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Wyoming *combined*
- The twenty largest cities in the United States *combined*
- 11x the U.S. active military population
- 2x the number of U.S. military veterans
- 8x the U.S. and Canadian Lutheran population
- 9x the number of public school teachers in the U.S.
- 2x the number of U.S. manufacturing employees
- 24x the number of licensed U.S. attorneys
- 40x the population of North Dakota

This is not a small population. Any act against this community impacts an unimaginable amount of people. And if the Gallup poll is any indicator, it will only continue to grow. The number of openly LGBTQ+ members has increased dramatically through each generation thanks to things like wider public acceptance, anti-discrimination laws, and marriage equality.

Even though this resolution may not have any immediate impact, it is still appalling that some of our legislatures believe they are within their right to pry marriage equality away from a group with over *40 times* the population of North Dakota. It is a gross overreach that does not even reflect the opinion of the majority of your constituents.

I urge you to reject HCR 3013. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

/s/ Maria Mack

I urge you to vote NAY on HCR 3013.

I am a conservative, I am a Christian, I am straight, and I am a wife. I was free to make all these decisions for myself because we are a nation built on the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

To my fellow conservatives—I would simply remind you of the seven core principles of conservatism as to why you should oppose this. **Individual freedom, limited government, the rule of law**, peace through strength, fiscal responsibility, free markets, and **human dignity**.

Samuel Adams himself said that “There shall be one rule of justice for rich and poor, for the favorite in court, and the countryman at the plough.” The founding fathers always intended for everyone to be treated equally under the rule of law above all else regardless of our differences. The United States Courts lists the rule of law as “a principle under which all persons, institutions, and entities are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, independently adjudicated, and consistent with international human rights principles.”

To my fellow Christians—God did not give us free will so that you could impose your will on others. Should the government have more power over us than God himself? No. Are churches forced to go against their beliefs and perform same sex marriages? No. Can a marriage license be issued with no involvement of a church? Yes. Same sex marriage is not infringing on anyone’s religious liberty as this bill wrongfully states.

Any citizen should have the constitutional right to marry whomever they choose to maintain equal treatment for all in respect to the rule of law in our country as intended by our forefathers. Banning same sex marriage would cause legal inequality among American citizens in regard to their legal rights in relation to their partner. This bill does nothing but alienate our fellow citizens, waste taxpayer money, and most certainly does not reflect the views of the majority of North Dakotans.

Vote NO on HCR 3013.

Samantha Braunberger

Rolette, ND

Please support this bill

To restore the definition of marriage to be between one man and one women - thank you

## Testimony Opposing HCR Bill 3013

My name is Melissa Haahr, and I am writing this to urge you to **VOTE NO on HCR 3013.**

The right to marry is a fundamental human right and should not be limited by gender or sexual orientation. **Allowing individuals to marry does not undermine existing marriages; a union between two consenting adults—regardless of gender—does not impact anyone else's marriage. This reflects fairness and equality in our society.**

**While personal religious beliefs may influence opposition to marriage equality, we must remember that the U.S. is built on the separation of church and state. Religious doctrines should not dictate civil law.** In a society founded on freedom and individual rights, laws should protect everyone's liberties, regardless of personal beliefs. Marriage equality is a matter of upholding these core values of liberty, justice, and human dignity.

**We have no right to judge whom someone chooses to love or marry. If someone opposes same-sex marriage, the solution is not to restrict others' rights but to simply refrain from entering such a marriage themselves. A just society is based on respect for others and the pursuit of equality.**

My son and his husband, both raised to respect others and contribute meaningfully to society, are happily married. They embody values of kindness, love, empathy, and compassion. As parents, our greatest wish is for our children to be happy and loved. Every individual deserves the opportunity to live a life of fulfillment and joy, no matter who they love.

**The American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are inseparable from the separation of church and state. Denying marriage equality undermines these principles.** Supporting marriage equality honors the values this country was founded on—freedom, justice, and the right to pursue happiness.

Please vote NO on HCR 3013. Thank you.

With respect,

Melissa J. Haahr





## **Testimony on HCR 3013**

### **North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers**

**March 12, 2025**

#### **Senate Judiciary Committee**

Chairman Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

The North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-ND) strongly opposes HCR 3013 because it devalues North Dakota citizens by urging the US Supreme Court to only recognize marriage between a man and woman, while denying lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer families the same recognition. The social work profession values empowerment, dignity and worth of a person, and social justice for individuals with all backgrounds, all gender identities, and expressions. HCR 3013 dismantles the support and progress established for LGBTQ individuals.

As of 2024, 2.7% of individuals in North Dakota identify as LGBTQ+. While may seem slight it rounds out to over 20,000 people. This resolution would devalue the choice, opportunities, and rights of 20,000 individuals within our own communities.

NASW-ND opposes policies that hinder the constitutional and fundamental rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. Many of the arguments in support of this resolution are based on religious beliefs. The US Constitution protects the freedom of religion, and while this resolution does not mention any specific religion it may impact individuals who may not identify with that form of religion, neglecting individuals the right of the freedom of association, which per our constitution allows individuals to identify with whatever religion and beliefs that they choose.

NASW-ND recognizes and supports LGBTQ+ individuals in being granted the same rights, privileges that are guaranteed to heterosexual and cisgender individuals. NASW-ND opposes any legislative efforts that attempt to discriminate against individuals of any backgrounds, or with any gender identity or expression. Our profession advocates for LGBTQ+ individuals to dwell within a safe and supportive environment, have rights to create families, and have equal access to resources within our communities. We encourage a society where individuals are free to disclose and identify as they wish, while creating a life that they choose.

We urge the members of this committee to vote DO NOT PASS on HCR 3013, as its objectives will aim to uphold the systemic barriers, stigmatization and marginalization of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Muralt

NASW-ND Policy Advocacy Intern

North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 12:30

To whom it may concern,

I am writing testimony to my opposition of HCR 3013. I am in support of civil unions that are same sex marriages. I have many people in my life, family, friends, acquaintances, business connections, that will be affected negatively if this bill passes without a fair resolution for this type of union that involves same sex marriage. These are all people who have paid their taxes, contributed to the community, take care of their families, and are amazing citizens of ND and the United States of America. Taking away rights that they presently have not only puts doubt in the minds of those who are losing those rights. It also puts doubt in the minds of people who support them as well. These voters, though the minority, are just as important as the “squeaky wheels” who brought this bill forth to the legislature. It is wrong to play with people’s lives as well as their livelihood just so they can push their specific religious beliefs in their religious branches onto people who do not have the same type of beliefs.

This can also have negative effects on our state economically. You want more investments and people coming into the state? Passing this bill can look very negative on the educated youth that are hoping to find a home to plant roots.

Please do not approve HCR 3013 to undo the time and money it took to make same sex marriage legal. This is “beating a dead horse” and we need to step forward and not backwards.

One more thing—My testimony has nothing to do with what political side I am on. It’s what being a human is all about!

Thank you for your time,

Joy Keller

# I Belong, Amen! Ministries

www.ibelongAmen.com

In Support of HCR 3013, I, David Arthur Kendall, Founder of I Belong Amen Ministries, am submitting this testimony of truth.

Good Afternoon Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee, Please allow me to make everyone uncomfortable with truth for a moment. If this is a biblical issue, then we need not go beyond Genesis Chapter 2 where it states that man was created, and woman formed from the rib of man. Now whether that is figurative, or literal because that doesn't matter for sake of the argument that the rib must be rightfully joined to its place, in man, in order to become one flesh. Two ribs cannot become one flesh, neither can two men without the missing ribs. Simple, right?

However, let me go on as an EX-member/advocate of/for the lgbTQia Rainbow Movement of 30+ years, an EX-gay man, as well as an EX-transgender "woman" of 20+ years. As a man the has been the target (recruited) and also the one who targeted (recruited), as a man that attempted to live as a "gay" Christian for years, only finding the reality of there being no such thing. It is impossible to walk in a right relationship with GOD Almighty and claim the false identity of homosexual.

The Rainbow Movement is, by definition, a cult. And since I was a victim of this cult for over 30 years I can call it a cult.

Obergefell was never about "marriage equality," and it was never about civil rights. Homosexuality is not the opposite of heterosexuality. The opposite of homosexuality is Redeemed, Justified, Saved by the Grace of GOD! The only reason this diabolical movement pushes its agenda so fiercely, is to normalize perversion and mock GOD. That is it. I am telling you as a former member & advocate, it is not nor has it ever been about equality, diversity or inclusivity; it is only about desensitizing society, especially the youth, and normalizing perversion especially to target children and the mentally challenged, or vulnerable individuals.

There's a movement pushing back against the TransQueer cult for openly targeting youth and confusing their developing sexuality. The TQ cult has gained many legal & social protections. And if you wonder how that happened, please read my blog titled, "[Former Trans-Prostitute Exposes TransQueer Agenda](#)" where I explain how we have gotten to where we are. Looking at the movement pushing back against the TQ cult, we see homosexuals joining in this battle. The battle to protect children cannot be won if we continue to allow those trapped in homosexuality to be platformed, given airtime, set up as idols or role-models, an so on.

# **I Belong, Amen! Ministries**

[www.ibelongAmen.com](http://www.ibelongAmen.com)

I explain that better in my blog post titled, "[Will We Win The War On Children? Doesn't Appear So.](#)"

Even when I identified as a homosexual, I never agreed with homosexual marriage or homosexuals raising children because the dangers and the sanctity of each of those things were extremely obvious. We all have a moral compass even if we deny it.

Please heed my words, your decision today could possibly be the beginning of the end of the immorality and deviant movements targeting children, as well as society as a whole. Your decision today could be helpful in rescuing children, mentally challenged & unstable individuals, the morality of a lost society as well as your own dignity and righteousness.

I beg of you, stop the oppression that SCOTUS created in the Obergefell decision. Please, stop the oppression, victimization, criminalization and weaponization of those who are vulnerable, weak, malleable and in need of your VOTE TO PASS. Please vote for the children, as well as for the future morality of our great nation.

In HIS Grip, David Arthur Kendall

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,  
Nicole Erhardt  
Mandan, ND  
[Nicole.everitt1996@gmail.com](mailto:Nicole.everitt1996@gmail.com)  
701.425.2701





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

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

Los Angeles, CA



March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

RE: House Concurrent Resolution NO. 3013

Dear Members of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to this resolution. As a lifetime North Dakota Resident and a proud gay individual, I find this resolution deeply troubling and misaligned with “North Dakota Nice” values.

Marriage equality is a fundamental human right. Any attempt to roll back these rights that so many Americans enjoy is a direct attack on the dignity and legitimacy of relationships like mine.

This resolution states that the *Obergefell* ruling undermines the visions of the Constitution’s Framers because citizens must seek dignity from the state. That is not the case, and, instead, North Dakotans are asking the *state* to have dignity on its *people*.

This is no longer about politics; this is about people. I have built my life here, just like so many other LGBTQ+ North Dakotans. We work hard, we pay taxes, and we support our community.

We want to be treated with the same dignity as everyone else. Pursuing this resolution accomplishes nothing and reopens wounds many thought had begun to heal.

I urge you to reconsider your stances. I urge you to ponder the real people your actions affect – the *person* taking your order at a restaurant, the *person* changing your oil, the *person* educating your children, the *person* writing this letter.

Please, do not use your position to erase the rights and recognition of everyday North Dakotans.

Stand on the right side of history. Stand with all North Dakotans. Reject this resolution.

Sincerely,

Carter Cassola

Chairman Larson and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I would strongly urge this committee to recommend a Do Not Pass on HCR 3013. North Dakota should protect the rights of and extend acceptance to all of its citizens. This resolution seeks the opposite. The ideas put forth in this resolution are extremely harmful to many North Dakotans who deserve equal rights and respect. The US Congress and the Supreme Court will not hear this resolution in any meaningful way, but our LGBTQ+ neighbors, friends, and families will. I respectfully ask for a Do Not Pass.

John Bradley & Simone Marchus  
Bismarck, ND  
District 30

Dear Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am in strong opposition of HCR 3013.

I do not believe the government should be able to tell myself or my wife who we are allowed to love. My marriage is just as valid as those of others.

This bill is nothing but discrimination in my and many other opinions.

Taking away my rights because of who I am married to is not right!

To be discriminated against people who do not know me is more hurtful than words can say.

As a lifelong North Dakotan, I've always been proud to live in a state that made me feel welcomed, at home and comfortable. I no longer feel that way.

The feelings of others towards myself and those in the LGBTQ+ community is unacceptable in this day and time.

Before you vote yes, please take into consideration the feelings and lives of all those people this will affect.

Thank you for your time.

**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 black ink that reads "Erin Ward". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Erin" and last name "Ward" clearly distinguishable.

Dear Chairman Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Patrick Hanson and I would like to ask you all today to support HCR 3013.

This concurrent resolution advocates for the restoration, protection and flourishing of the most fundamental political institution of any society, that is marriage. By restoring and protecting marriage we will restore and strengthen nuclear families. We need healthy, thriving nuclear families because as we all know and statistics show that individuals that grow up in healthy families that are together and whole, will be far more likely to grow up and live healthy flourishing lives. When individuals in society are more stable and healthy, they will be more likely to contribute to and help others in society. This will be better for the social fabric of our nation and flourishing of everyone.

I ask that you please vote do pass.

Thank you!

Sixty-ninth North Dakota Legislative Assembly  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
**H.B. 3013**  
March 12, 2025



P.O. Box 1190  
Fargo, ND 58107  
701-404-7269  
[aclund.org](http://aclund.org)

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

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of North Dakota, I submit testimony in staunch opposition of House Concurrent Resolution 3013 urging the United States Supreme Court to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

This resolution undermines fundamental civil liberties and equality as it seeks to revoke the constitutional right of same-sex couples to marry, a right affirmed by the Supreme Court in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015). This landmark decision recognized that the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees same-sex couples the same marriage rights as opposite-sex couples, ensuring equal protection under the law.

HCR 3013 is superfluous legislation in that it is extremely unlikely to have any bearing or influence on any action of the Supreme Court should the question of marriage equality come before the Court in the future.

Furthermore, by taking a stance against this precedent and constitutional right, the Sixty-ninth North Dakota Legislative Assembly is openly promoting discrimination against LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit North Dakotans, relegating them to second-class citizenship and declaring that the Assembly wishes to deny them the legal protections and societal recognition provided by legal marriage.

At its core, the resolution seeks to impose a singular definition of marriage based on specific religious or traditional beliefs which an open declaration against the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, the ACLU has consistently and long maintained that matters of personal belief should remain within the domain of individuals and faith communities and not be dictated by government mandates. Defining marriage exclusively through a particular religious lens not only alienates those with differing beliefs but also sets a dangerous precedent for governmental overreach into personal and religious freedoms.

Advocating for the reversal of *Obergefell v. Hodges* disregards the progress made toward inclusivity and equal rights and undermines the pluralistic and inclusive fabric of our society. Rescinding marriage equality would strip countless families of legal recognition and protection, adversely affecting their stability, well-being, and standing citizens in society. Such a move contradicts the principles of justice and equality that are foundational to our democracy. The ACLU urges North Dakota legislators to reject HCR 3013 and instead focus on policies that uphold the rights and dignity of all citizens, irrespective of their sexual orientation.

Passage of HCR 3012 would be a clear statement that the elected government of the State of North Dakota considers LGBTQ+ and Two Spirit citizens to be of a second-class status. This resolution fosters an environment of exclusion and intolerance, which is antithetical to the core of North Dakotan and American values of liberty and justice for all people.

The ACLU urges this committee to give a "do not pass" recommendation on HCR 3012 and further urges the North Dakota State Senate to soundly defeating this bill.

Submitted by:  
Cody J. Schuler  
*Advocacy Manager, ACLU of North Dakota*  
ND Lobbyist #367  
[cschuler@aclu.org](mailto:cschuler@aclu.org)

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.”

### 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.

**Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013**  
**Christina Sambor, North Dakota Human Rights Coalition, Lobbyist No. 312**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**March 12, 2025**

Chair Larson and Members of the Committee:

The North Dakota Human Rights Coalition opposes HCR 3013 and strongly urges this committee to recommend a do not pass. North Dakota should protect the rights of and extend acceptance and kindness to all its citizens. This resolution seeks to do the opposite. The ideas put forth in this resolution are extraordinarily harmful to many North Dakotans and Americans who deserve equal rights and respect.

The idea that same sex families are in any way less stable and beneficial to our State and Country than opposite-sex families has been disproven in courts, that is how the Obergefell opinion came about. Courts have the power to review legislation and determine whether it complies with our Constitution. North Dakota's Constitution contains **more** protections for individual liberty and the pursuit of happiness than the US Constitution. When laws impermissibly restrict fundamental rights, they are deemed unconstitutional. That is why the Supreme Court upheld the trial court's determination that excluding same sex couples from the ability to legally marry was unconstitutional. Including same sex couples in the group of Americans who can benefit from the legal recognition of their marriage is vitally important. Taking that inclusion away would threaten or take away many tangible benefits for no good reason, including tax benefits, rights to make end of life decisions, and rights to inherit property. Marriage is not solely a religious institution. It is an important legal and social institution that should be available to those who seek to enter into it.

Since this resolution passed the House of Representatives, North Dakotans have made their opposition clear. Only 36% of North Dakotans supported the House's passage of this resolution, according to the North Dakota News Cooperative's recent poll. In fact, several members of the House later publicly expressed their regret for voting in support of this resolution. Over 1,000 people signed on to a letter voicing their opposition to this resolution. I would venture to guess nearly everyone in this room knows and cares about a member of the LGBTQ+ community. This resolution sends an extraordinarily harmful message to those North Dakotans – that their elected officials want to take away recognition of their marriage without knowing anything about it other than that the spouses are of the same sex. Just because this is a resolution does not mean its message does not have a significant impact on the community it is aimed at. The outcry of North Dakotans has been significant, as has the profound rejection, hurt, and anger this resolution has already caused.

Furthermore, the previous testimony of the prime sponsor examines North Dakotans' right to marriage based on his understanding of biblical text and based on legal principles that are hundreds of years old. It is good for the members of the legislature to consider the dangers and flaws of relying on governing principles and documents drafted hundreds of years ago that were created without the perspectives of women, Native Americans, Black Americans or people who were prohibited from owning property.

This perspective – strict “originalism” - seeks to return us to rules and laws that written at a time when most people were excluded from representation in government. By that same logic, women should not have a right to vote, much less hold public office. Indigenous people, who lived here well before the “anglo-american” system of government were totally excluded from forming the United States Government. The North Dakota State Legislature, whose membership includes many women and people of color, should not ignore that the arguments advanced in the prime sponsor’s testimony, when taken to their logical exclusion, argue that people of a different gender or race or belief system do not deserve a voice in our government. That is not who we are, nor who we should seek to be. Please recommend a do not pass on HCR 3013.

To the members and participants of the Senate Judiciary Public Hearing

My name is Michael Ozaki.

I live in Forks, ND. With my wife and 4 children.

I have been an ordained and installed minister in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) for the last 12 years.

I am also a Licensed Graduate Social Worker.

I have a Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Masters of Social Work from Rutgers University.

I share all of this because many biblical, theological and social arguments are being made against marriage equality. And while I believe they are coming from well meaning individuals, it doesn't change the fact that they often contain many inaccurate assumptions and false facts.

As someone who has studied these subjects deeply I'd like to share a few facts on the matter.

**1) Bible has no law against same sex relationships.**

Verses like Leviticus 18:22 (*"Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman"*) are often quoted. Which seems straight forward, except that in Hebrew the literal translation is more like, *"With a male you shall not lie lyings of a woman; it is taboo."* A sentence as awkward in that language as in our own. But what's more interesting is the word "Taboo" at the end. A word used in all OT mentions of this law. In Hebrew the word is *"to'evah"*. A word exclusively used in religious settings and it comes right after the law to not "give" your child to Molech.

There is also never any reference to female on female sexual activity in the OT. Which seems like an odd thing to leave out.

What does it mean? That the law has to do specifically with what was happening in the religious rituals of the non-jewish people around them. Namely, that men would take part in the common ancient practice of "Pedantry" which is men having sex with boys, in this case as a religious rite, in order to take "strength" from them and the Gods.

In other words, this is not a law about homosexuality. This is a law about who you worship, how God gives power and wants you to treat children.

If you want to point to stories like Sodom and Gomorra (Gen 19) well, that's even easier. Ezekiel tells us what they real sin was that got them destroyed:

*"This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy."*

*-Ezekiel 16:49*

But perhaps the more troubling truth of the laws that are quoted is that in doing so we pick and choose. Because if we are going to try to legislate Gods law then we also better go after tattoo parlors, labs cross breeding crops, anyone who has sex while menstruating or factories making cotton blend clothing. All of which are forbidden in that same Chapter of Leviticus.

But that's not going to happen because that's not really why we bring up the Bible when talking about same sex marriage. We bring it up as a tool, a weapon to wield against people not like us who do things we don't understand. A natural human instinct, to be sure. But in doing so, we not only misrepresent what this book is saying, we actually violate it and the faith we claim at a much deeper level.

## **2) Biblical Marriage is NOT between one man and one women.**

Marriage between one man and one woman in the bible is a rarity. Abraham had 3, Jacob at 2 or more and David had at least 8. Marriage between way more than one man and one woman was seen as fine and even commanded in some cases (Deut. 5)

Instead, marriage was seen as a way for humans to be deeply connected and in care for one another. It was out of that connection that life comes forth in all forms, not just biologically. For this reason and from this perspective there were not limits put on it except to make sure it wasn't used by men to turn twist marriage itself into a way to use or dominate women.

Which is also why, in the New Testament, writers like Paul say that it is better for people to not get married at all (1 Corinth. 7). The church was seen as the "bride of Christ" and their deep connections and mutual care for each other across race, nationality, social status and more was all they needed to be who they were meant to be. Humans, made equal and sharing everything because everything was given as a gift from God for the purpose of sharing as a Gift to others made by the same God.

And that kind of world can't be legislated.  
It can only be chosen by those who choose to give.  
Not because of what they hate but because of who they love.

## **3) No Law can ever bring people close to God or who we are meant to be.**

In the end, this is why all the Biblical arguments about removing marriage

equality must be discounted. In the end the biblical logic about how God changes us isn't by the enforcement of better rules but by the granting of more freedom and trust that love demands. Or, as Galatians 5 puts it:

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery... You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

## **Conclusion**

Rescinding marriage equality and its protections will do nothing to make us a more Christian nation or improve any heterosexuals marriage. In fact, it will do the opposite. As Christians it violates the deepest tenants of our faith by oppressing a minority group's freedom. A freedom they use to love each other more fully. And then taking action that holds no love or respect for freedoms towards them.

Don't do this.

There are so many other people who need you to intervene in their lives.

Gay and Lesbian married people are not one of them.

At least, not like this.

Chairwoman Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HCR 3013. I decided to write this testimony after I had listened to the heart wrenching speech on the House floor by Representative Austin Foss. Representative Foss truly showed courage when addressing the house to talk about this concurrent resolution and how this resolution was a message to the world that people who are LGBTQ+ are not welcome in our state.

Marriage equality has been federal law in the United States since 2015. A 2022 [Public Religion Research Institute](#) (PRRI) opinion poll found that 66% of North Dakota residents supported same-sex marriage, while 34% opposed it and 1% were unsure.

The number of citizens testifying in opposition to this resolution in comparison to those who are in favor speaks volumes on the thoughts of North Dakotans. We support our LGBTQ+ community as should you by defeating this horrific resolution. I am proud to be one of the over 1,000 North Dakotans who signed a letter that ran in newspapers across the state. The letter states: On Monday, February 24, the North Dakota House of Representatives, on a 52-40 vote, passed a resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to “restore the definition of marriage to a union between one man and one woman.” We, the undersigned residents of North Dakota, are angered and saddened by this action. We know this does not reflect the will of North Dakota voters and we urge the North Dakota Senate to vote NO when this resolution comes to their chamber.

To our family, friends, and neighbors in the LGBTQ+ community, we see you. We love you. And we want you to stay in North Dakota. We are here to fight alongside you for your right to thrive in your own communities. Whether you grew up here or made a choice to move here, you belong here.

To our legislators who are choosing to waste taxpayers’ time and money on hateful, unnecessary legislation: we urge you to refocus your energy on efforts that actually benefit and improve the lives of your constituents. This resolution – alongside the effort to allow harmful conversion therapy practices – is not it. You work for the people of North Dakota, and we demand better.

I urge you to stand with the people of North Dakota and encourage a do not pass on HCR 3013.

Sargianna Wutzke

District 30-Bismarck

North Dakota Legislatures/Senators

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to HCR 3013, and in support of my family, friends and loved ones that are gay, lesbian, transgender. This legislation divides and is not in the best interest of North Dakota residents, nor does it send a 'business friendly message' to the outside our borders. At a time of great divide in our national politics, this legislation only furthers that chasm. I encourage you to oppose this legislation!

With Gratitude,

Shannon Straight  
Bismarck, North Dakota



Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013, which urges the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges* and strip same-sex couples of their right to marry. This resolution is not only an attack on the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals but also a step backward for the state of North Dakota.

Marriage equality has brought stability to countless families, strengthened communities, and affirmed the dignity of all Americans, regardless of whom they love. HCR 3013, by seeking to revoke these rights, signals that North Dakota is willing to enshrine discrimination into its legislative record. This is not the message we should be sending to residents, businesses, or the next generation of North Dakotans.

Furthermore, encouraging the Supreme Court to revisit settled precedent undermines the principle of equal protection under the law. The justices in *Obergefell* recognized that marriage is a fundamental right that should not be denied based on sexual orientation. Overturning that decision would cause profound harm, destabilizing families, and treating LGBTQ+ citizens as second-class.

HCR 3013 does nothing to improve the lives of North Dakotans. Instead, it wastes legislative time on a measure that will only drive people—especially young professionals and students—away from our state. If we want North Dakota to thrive, we must embrace inclusivity, not exclusion.

Sincerely,  
Elijah Westerfield

03/12/2025

RE: HCR 3013

I am writing in opposition to HCR 3013. This bill is not only a waste of time, but damaging. I believe it not only damages individuals directly but also hurts the image of our state. What it says is that North Dakota is stuck in a time where we still don't believe all people should have equal rights. Having been born, raised and spent most of my life in North Dakota, I'm disappointed that this bill has made it as far as it has. If we are to respect this country and the principles it was founded on, then a recognition that all people are created equal needs to be upheld. I feel that those who support this are mostly religiously motivated in this case, but I do not support that as an excuse. Despite being a Christian myself and having my own set of beliefs, I recognize the need for separation of state and church.

I am speaking in support of the many amazing same-sex couples that I've known over the years. They deserve the same basic rights and freedoms that we are all supposed to enjoy. I hope that this resolution will cause people to take pause, consider the harmful consequences and chose to vote against it.

Courtney Keller

Peoria, AZ

Born and raised resident of Minot, ND

HCR 3013

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

I submit the following testimony in opposition to HCR 3013.

I believe every North Dakotan should have the right to love and marry whom they choose.

Please give HCR 3013 a DO NOT PASS.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Spring Bakke  
District 20,  
Inkster, ND

Hancock Maine  
 Las Vegas Nevada  
 Las Angeles California  
 War road Minnesota  
 Lacon Alabama  
 Twin falls Idaho  
 Ronan Montana  
 Culver City California  
 Haslet Texas  
 Houston Texas  
 Torrance California  
 Brooklyn park Minnesota

These are the towns and cities across America who have submitted testimony in favor of passing this resolution. Now, as far as I'm concerned, the people in question who submitted these are not a business owner in Mapleton, North Dakota they're not a taxpayer from Tioga, North Dakota. They aren't somebody who will be volunteering their time to pick up litter in the ditches along I 94. They aren't a homeowner in Mandan, North Dakota looking to keep their yard and street nice for the betterment of their town. These people don't have pride in North Dakota.

First, It is up to you to decide if you want out of state interest affecting your decision on how to vote on this bill.

Now, if you dig even deeper into the in favor testimony that has been submitted, if you put a filter on words such as religion, Bible, Jesus, etc. there will be zero left standing. Not one single testimony includes an argument that isn't based on religion. I am not here to argue religion, as I am a believer myself. But I am not of the opinion that my religious beliefs should affect anybody else's life.

Marriage is a religious sacrament to some, and it isn't to others. This is fact. To obtain a marriage license is a legal process not a religious process. You get it from the clerk of court, not from a priest or a pastor.

The way you vote on this bill affects every day, North Dakotans who may want to just keep working hard, paying their taxes, raising a family being involved in volunteer and charitable organizations, and remaining unbothered. If you vote in favor of this resolution it gives a signal to the current same sex marriages that they are not welcome here. It's signals to the same sex couples who are in relationships that their relationship should not be allowed to go to the next step of marriage, and it signals to kids & adults who are in the closet, afraid to be their true selves that they will not be welcome in this state. It is quite a shame that a body of people who may not know what it is like, to be able to send such a strong signal to something they don't understand. I am asking today for you to oppose this resolution and vote no.

The damage has already been done last month when the house overwhelmingly favored this hate filled resolution. Our state made headlines we made waves and we caused more damage to a community that is already suffering from being a cultural war football being kicked around since 2012 and long before. This is your one chance at voting the correct way, and gaining back a small sliver of confidence to your constituents. I emphasize small sliver. This will be a small step forward after a gigantic step backwards. There will be more work to do after this, so I hope that nobody will be under the assumption that this will fix the damage that was caused by this even being a discussion in the first place.

I am proud to be North Dakotan and I am proud to be an involved citizen and I don't want you guys to have the ability to take that pride away from me. I want to contribute to the state and not feel as if I have to leave. I have a lot to offer as I am only 24. I am afraid that if you guys vote yes to send the signal to the highest court of the land that the state will lose a lot of high value citizens in return for nothing. Talk about a bad trade deal.  
All of this chatter & all of this debate for nothing to happen except a net loss for North Dakota.

Thank you for your time,  
Kaylee Barbie

I oppose House Concurrent Resolution 3013. I am here today as an LGBTQ+ ally and as an advocate for equal rights for all North Dakotans.

I do not agree that the United States Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges (2015) conflicts with the United States Constitution and the principles upon which the United States was established. Rather, our country was established on the principles of liberty and fundamental rights for all, including the right to marry.

I respectfully request that you recommend "Do Not Pass" on HCR 3013. Thank you for your time today and your service to the residents of North Dakota.

Laura Cronquist  
Bismarck, ND

References:  
Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644 (2015).

Kaitlyn Neuharth  
West Fargo, North Dakota

Senate Judiciary Committee  
North Dakota State Capitol  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505

March 12, 2025

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Kaitlyn Neuharth. I am a 17-year-old lifelong North Dakotan, a daughter, a student, and a proud partner to my girlfriend. As a bisexual individual, I am submitting this written testimony to voice my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3013. I believe in the core values that our state holds dear—values like fairness, compassion, and opportunity for every individual. These values motivate me to speak out against a resolution that threatens to undermine the rights of myself and others like me.

I grew up embracing the values of compassion, fairness, and opportunity—values I was taught are central to North Dakota. When I asked my parents why they stayed here, their answer was always the same: "The people." Sure, the climate can be brutal, and the food may be a little bland, but the people make it all worthwhile. But now, as I witness proposals like House Concurrent Resolution 3013, I am left questioning whether the principles of "North Dakota Nice" and the values we once held so dear are being honored—or forsaken. I strongly oppose this resolution because it threatens not only the progress we've made but the very foundation of our constitutional rights.

The decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* was a landmark moment in American history, affirming the fundamental right of same-sex couples to marry. Yet this resolution seeks to reverse that ruling, urging the Supreme Court to undo the progress made. *Obergefell* was not an overreach; it was a rightful interpretation of the Constitution in light of evolving societal understandings of marriage. The ruling was grounded in the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantee that all citizens enjoy the same freedoms without discrimination. Just as the Court ruled in *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) that racial discrimination in marriage was unconstitutional, *Obergefell* rightly determined that denying same-sex couples the right to marry violates the basic principles of equality under the law.

By advocating for the reversal of *Obergefell*, HCR 3013 disregards the very legal foundations that uphold our most sacred principles—justice, equality, and fairness. The message is clear: that the rights of some individuals are less important than those of others. This is not just a legal issue; it is a moral one. We cannot pick who deserves equality based on arbitrary distinctions. The Supreme Court's recognition of same-sex marriage was a reaffirmation of what America stands for: liberty for all, regardless of gender, race, or sexual orientation. The assertion in HCR 3013 that *Obergefell* "undermines" the Constitution is nothing more than a rejection of progress and human dignity.

Moreover, the appeal to "natural law" and the idea that marriage should be between only a man and a woman is a direct affront to both the Constitution and the evolving nature of our society. As society

progresses, our understanding of human rights must also evolve. The framers of the Constitution did not share our modern understanding of equality, nor would they have anticipated the full scope of civil rights we now recognize. The Constitution is a living document, meant to adapt to the times. In *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), the Court overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine, recognizing that legal interpretations must evolve with societal changes. To argue that *Obergefell* is a misstep is to ignore the lessons we've learned from past decisions that corrected injustices.

The Declaration of Independence proclaims that all people are created equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights—among them "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." These rights do not cease to exist for LGBTQ+ individuals, nor should they. The decision in *Obergefell* embodies that declaration, affirming that same-sex couples deserve the same rights, protections, and privileges as any other couple. The framers of the Constitution may not have anticipated LGBTQ+ rights, but they did believe in the fundamental equality of all people. To reverse *Obergefell* would be to reject this core value of liberty and human dignity.

HCR 3013 also raises concerns about judicial overreach, but this accusation fundamentally misrepresents the role of the judiciary in our system of government. The judiciary exists not only to interpret the law but to safeguard our constitutional rights against the tyranny of the majority. In *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), Chief Justice John Marshall affirmed the principle of judicial review, ensuring that laws or actions which violate the Constitution can be challenged and struck down. The Court's role is not to legislate but to protect the Constitution from legislative overreach. The *Obergefell* decision was a rightful exercise of this power, safeguarding the rights of same-sex couples against discriminatory state laws.

To suggest that the judiciary's recognition of same-sex marriage was an overstep undermines the very principle of checks and balances that protects all of us. If this resolution succeeds, it sets a dangerous precedent—one where the majority opinion can trample over the rights of minorities without recourse. This is not how our system of government is supposed to function. The judiciary is a check on legislative power to ensure that fundamental rights cannot be taken away by popular vote or political pressure. HCR 3013 seeks to undermine this principle, weakening the very freedoms that make this country great.

This resolution is deeply personal for me. As a bisexual young woman, I have experienced the challenges of navigating a world that can sometimes feel hostile to my identity. North Dakota is my home, and it has shaped who I am, but I fear that if resolutions like HCR 3013 pass, my home state will no longer feel like a place where I can live authentically. When I think about my future here, about building a life with my girlfriend, I should feel supported by the state and its laws—not pushed back into the shadows. When I choose to stay in-state to pursue a legal degree because I love it here, I shouldn't feel like my higher education is pulling me down. And when I meet people from Wisconsin, Arkansas, and Ohio who ask if North Dakota is a good, safe place to live—one that won't treat them like their home states—I shouldn't have to feel compelled to lie. I don't want future generations of North Dakotans—my trans younger brother, my queer friends, babies who have yet to be born—to feel the same fear and uncertainty that I feel in the face of such resolutions.

*Obergefell v. Hodges* wasn't just a legal victory; it was a recognition of the inherent dignity and equality of all Americans. Reversing that decision would erase progress and deny the truth that love is love, no matter who it's between. I ask you to consider the long-term implications of passing this resolution—not just for LGBTQ+ individuals, but for the future of North Dakota itself.



In closing, I urge you to reject this resolution and stand by the values that truly make North Dakota a place of fairness, equality, and opportunity for all. We should be a state that welcomes diversity, embraces the full humanity of its citizens, and protects the rights of every individual, regardless of their sexual orientation. I hope that, in the years to come, we can look back on this moment and be proud that we chose to protect the rights and dignity of all North Dakotans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Madam Chair Larson, Committee members;

For the Record, I am Representative Bill Tveit, District 33, Hazen:

District 33 includes all of Mercer, all of Oliver and the best parts of McLean and Morton Counties. It is here where farmers and ranchers labor to put food on your table while miners and power plant workers mine and convert coal into fertilizers, electricity, liquid gas and other useful products for your comfort.

\*\*\*\*\*

HCR 3013 urges the United States Supreme Court to reconsider its actions and restore marriage to a union between one man and one woman, as it always was prior to 2015, a mere 10 years ago.

I trust you have each thoroughly read and studied the content of the Resolution, therefore I will refrain from reading HCR 3013.

Committee, based on the fact you were born and you exist, you are well aware:

Two cannot conceive or birth children, except for the coming together of a male and a female.

You can not have a country without children;

You cannot perpetuate a country without a next generation;

Based on the Laws of Nature, \*\*\*\*\* It's just that simple.

Madam Chair, with that said, I would like to walk you through a short historical documentation in the history of the definition of Marriage; Beginning just a little over 6,000 years ago!

Utilizing one of the oldest books, the bible as a historic document;  
and if you wish, a Judeo-Christian record:  
in Genesis 2: 22 & 24 NIV.

(the 6th day of creation, approx 6,025 years ago)

**22** God made a woman from the rib—— and he brought her to the man.” **24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh\*\*\*\*

Genesis 4: 1-2 KJV

**1** And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain,

**2** And she again bare his brother Abel.

Marriage has been recognized as a covenant and an institution in Common Law between one man and one woman since Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Laws of England*.

published by the Clarendon Press at Oxford between 1765 and 1769,

258 years ago.

The United States Constitution is based on English Common Law.

Though neither the US Constitution nor the Bill of Rights refer to marriage, the basis of the laws of our country were clearly defined in the:

**Declaration of Independence, In Congress, July 4,**

**1776.** (spelling and punctuation reflect the original text, 249 years ago)

**The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,**

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth,



the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

The Bill of Rights:

(the 1st 17 amendment's final ratification - Dec 15, 1791; 234 years ago). The **Tenth Amendment**:

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it, are reserved, to the states respectively, or to the people.

**The Constitution of North Dakota ARTICLE XI, GENERAL PROVISIONS - SECTION 28:** in 1889 (136 years ago)

**Marriage consists only of the legal union between a man and a woman. No other domestic union, however denominated, may be recognized as a marriage or given the same or substantially equivalent legal effect.**

**North Dakota Century Code, Chapter 14-03 – Marriage Contract (again in 1889, 136 years ago)**

**14-03-01. What constitutes marriage – Spouse defined**  
**Marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between one man and one woman to which the consent of the parties is essential. The marriage relation may be entered into, maintained, annulled, or dissolved only as provided by law. A spouse refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.**

10 years ago, in 2015, two of the Supreme Court Justices who ruled in the majority for *Obergefell v Hodges*, had previously officiated same-sex "weddings". They were Justice Kagan and Justice Ginsburg. Justice Kagan also actively



promoted/supported LGBT rights while Dean of Harvard Law School. Those actions alone should have forced them to recuse themselves from the case.

**Such recusal would have led to a 4-3 decision against *Obergefell* and thus against same-sex “marriage”.**

**(Please allow me to read page 1 lines 17 – 23 of HCR 3013)**

WHEREAS, the judicial branch of government is authorized to interpret the law but it does not have the authority to legislate from the bench to enact policy decisions, as legislative powers are properly vested in the legislative branch of government; and

WHEREAS, *Obergefell v. Hodges* relies on the dangerous fiction of treating the due process clause as a font of substantive rights, a doctrine which strays from the full meaning of the United States Constitution and exalts judges at the expense of the people from whom they derive their authority;

Justice Thomas and Justice Alito wrote in 2020 wrote:

(just 5 years ago) **“It would be one thing if recognition for same-sex marriage had been debated and adopted through the democratic process, with people deciding not to provide statutory protection for religious liberty under state law,”** they explained. **“But it is quite another when the court forces that choice upon society through its creation of a-textual constitutional rights and its ungenerous interpretation of the Free Exercise Claus, leaving those with religious objections in the lurch”.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Madam Chair, committee members:        this historical documentation should clearly prove and establish that a marriage union - has never been, - is not, - and never should be, - that of a couple of the same sex. Utah’s House recently passed a similar Resolution & several other states are considering the same.**

**I do not claim to be a scholar, however, in preparation for this introduction, I did a brief research of our native tribes, other nations and cultures throughout the history of the world. In most cases, a form of marriage was acknowledged and practiced and referred to as "Marriage". In every case, there was no indication of same-sex marriage, but only that of a "marriage" of a male and a female as has been documented here.**

**If same sex couples desire a collaborate union of sort for a legal bonding, they must call it anything but "marriage".**

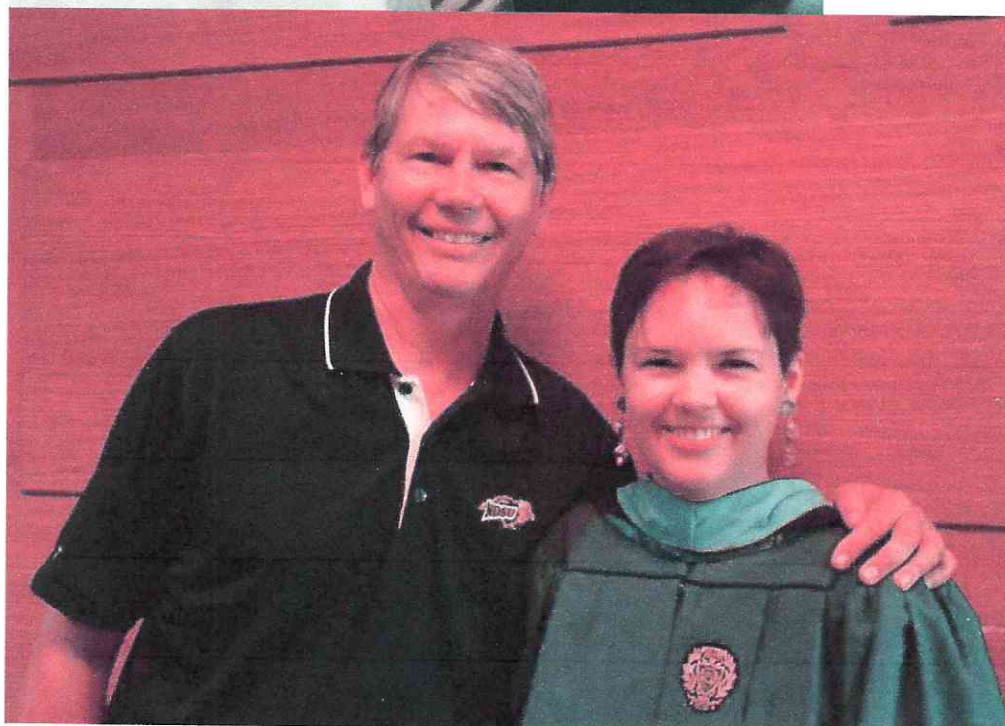
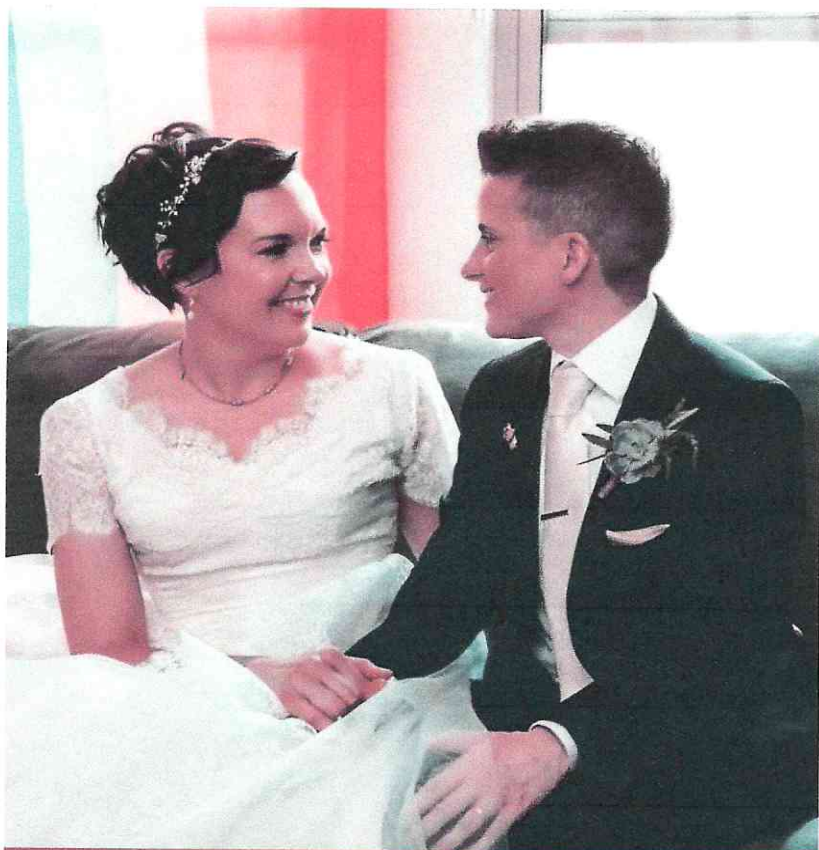
**In bringing HCR 3013 before this assembly, my only regret is, that I or no other person called for, or insisted on the Supreme Courts reconsideration of their erroneous action back in 2015.**

**Chair Larson, it is past time for North Dakota Citizens to speak their displeasure with this Supreme Court decision and call for a restoration of the definition of marriage as "only of the legal union between a man and a woman", As stated in NDCC 14-03-01.**

**Please follow this age old historical documentation on marriage.**

**I urge a DO PASS: I will stand for questions.**





Dr. Bradley King of Bismarck, Born and raised here. Stayed here because I thought it was a good place to have children and raise a family.

I'd like to introduce you to my daughter, Amanda. Graduate of Bismarck High, Merit Scholar, Received her Masters in Education from Northwestern in Chicago. She teaches Science to Middleschoolers. She is the type of professional that North Dakota should attract. Her spouse Amy teaches elementary students with behavior issues. She is gay, married and happy.

Right now you are looking at one very angry father. I personally feel this is an attack on my daughter. If you vote in favor of this resolution it tells me and her that you believe she has no place in our state. That she should be ashamed of where she came from. That I should be ashamed of where I was born and raised. That the fact that I walked her down the aisle was a fraud. That freedom of religion exists---- but not for her. The resolution quotes the Declaration of Independence that people are endowed with Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. However, No Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness for her. Not for my daughter.

Thomas Jefferson said "The legitimate powers of government extend to such acts only as are injurious to others." Tell me how my daughter's marriage has hurt you personally? Has it hurt anyone? It's been 10 years! How have the people in this room have injured you or the state by having this basic right?

This resolution says the Supreme Court was wrong in interpreting the 14th amendment in allowing same sex marriage. That it was making law. You know what else is not in the Constitution, what else is not historically American? Equality for women. It was the Supreme Court interpreting the same 14th amendment in Reed v Reed that allows the women here to be considered equals under the law. If Obergefell is wrong so is Reed v Reed. That equal rights for women was the wrong decision. You know who argued before and convinced the Supreme Court that gays should be allowed equality under the law? Ted Boutros, a graduate of Bismarck High.

Our definitions of marriage has changed though out history. Once women were basically owned by her husband and he was free to beat her. Even my mother, as recently as in the 1960s couldn't have her own bank account credit card, take out a loan or mortgage on her own. She was the lesser partner. Is it too much to believe that marriage evolves and changes. It is in society's best interest to have people in stable supportive committed relationships. That is why married couples have privileges that unmarried couples don't.

This exact resolution was written by and is being put forward in several states by a group from Massachusetts called Mass Resistance. It is a small anti gay political organization that has been labeled a "hate group" by the Southern Poverty Law Group. Nothing good can come of this resolution. Even if you pass it the Justices will never see it. They get millions of legal documents a year. However if you vote in favor of it you are telling our young people don't come here. If you are gay you are not safe here. That your beliefs and religion will not be respected here. It will make the national news and it will go viral and make us all look ugly. Don't pick a Massachusetts hate group over my daughter and her rights to Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Dr Bradley King  
3612 Calypso Dr.  
Bismarck ND 58504 bking1@bis.midco.net