

#### **14. Resolution in Support of Religious Freedom – NDGOP Resolutions Committee**

WHEREAS: The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution of the United States explicitly states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”; and

WHEREAS: In an act of judicial activism, the Supreme Court of the United States created a constitutional right to same-sex marriage in its Obergefell v Hodges decision; and

WHEREAS: The Respect For Marriage Act further codified same-sex marriage into law and paved the way for activists to bring lawsuits against religious individuals and organizations who believe marriage is solely between a man and a woman; and

WHEREAS: As Justice Clarence Thomas noted in his dissent to Obergefell, “In our society, marriage is not simply a governmental institution; it is a religious institution as well...and it appears all but inevitable that the two will come into conflict, particularly as individuals and churches are confronted with demands to participate in and endorse civil marriages between same-sex couples.” and

WHEREAS: The IRS could potentially use the new law to remove tax-exempt status, take away government grants, and revoke licenses from religious organizations, Christian orphanages, and adoption ministries; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the North Dakota Republican Party calls upon our attorney general to vigorously oppose in court any attempt to restrict the religious freedom of individuals and organizations who hold the sincerely held religious belief that marriage is between one man and one woman, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The North Dakota Republican Party, in alignment with its platform, reaffirms the state’s constitutional definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman.