



The Honorable Timothy Ginter  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

February 14th, 2017

Committee Members,

This testimony is in regard to HB 36. The issue before us today is the very basis of our freedom and society, for it is the freedom of religious belief based on truth and the conscience of a people that truly makes a people free.

The fundamental paradigm shift in our culture has been both alarming and swift. Like a tidal wave of change, those who preach tolerance and inclusiveness, have been the ones who have targeted those who do not agree with them, bringing unconscionable and ridiculous lawsuits and harassments.

Unfortunately, with the changes in culture and politics, it has become necessary to take steps to protect areas that have not needed that protection in the past. The fact that institutions and businesses have been brought under litigation for the stand they take on moral issues is an attack on the fibers of freedom. This is the height of hypocrisy. Whereas the cry of the day is tolerance and equality, there is little of either.

This points out the need to take extra action to preserve the freedoms that are intrinsic to our republic and our state.

While this amendment will not have any bearing on my willingness to hold to the truth of God-given convictions, it will afford a level of protection that will make the practice of faith much more peaceful.

Our country and even this state have a rich history of protecting freedom of conscience and religion. In light of that, I ask the committee to bring this amendment to a vote and provide the framework for a lasting and peaceful exercise of religious freedom.

**Pastor Joel Royalty**

9850 Broadview Rd., Broadview Heights, OH 44147

[BroadviewHeightsBC.com](http://BroadviewHeightsBC.com)