



Pura Vida by Brandt
170 Euclid Ave
Cleveland OH 44114

September 5, 2017

To the attention of Chair Blessing III, Vice Chair Reineke, ranking minority member Clyde, and the members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee,

My name is Katie Klonowski, I am the Director of Operations for Pura Vida by Brandt, a small business in Cleveland, Ohio and I am writing to support the legislation HB 160 being considered.

I have lived in a suburb of Cleveland my whole life and have spent the last 7 years working in downtown Cleveland and strongly believe all individuals, including LGBTQ, should have an equal opportunity to live, work and thrive in our city without harassment or discrimination. We need all of Ohio to be 100% supportive in this cause to ensure that any person can apply for any position in the state of Ohio and be considered on their merit of the job, not their personal preferences, and offer protection should harassment occur in the work place. As an employer, it becomes frustrating to understand that in this day and age, businesses do discriminate against people based on personal choices. I believe passing HB 160 will encourage business to lead in the right direction and make for a better Ohio. This could impact Ohio in many positive ways; financially by opening the door for any business to come to Ohio and ensure protection of their employees against discrimination and saving on discrimination costs as reported by the Center for American Progress, which is in the billions of dollars spent on an annual basis.

All we want to do is protect the LGBTQ community and offer the chance to be successful in Ohio. Being that Cleveland sponsored the Gay Games in 2016, we know the positive impact the LGBTQ community and events surrounding the LGBTQ community can bring to our state, and this would open the door to host more great events that increased business, revenue and taxes for many in the Cleveland area. This bill will bring Ohio up and really show true support to the communities at all times. Please consider the HB 160 and thank you kindly for you time.

Sincerely,

Katie Klonowski

Katie Klonowski

Director of Operations / Pura Vida by Brandt / 170 Euclid Ave / Cleveland / Ohio / 44114

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