

Chair Blessing III, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Minority Member Clyde, and the members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee:

My name is Mary J. Gentile and I am writing in support of House Bill 160.

HB 160 is incredibly important in the State of Ohio to protect LGBTQ people. My wife, Erin, and I got married in June of this year. We feel lucky to live in Yellow Springs where we have an accepting community. Although housing is less expensive in surrounding communities, we would not want to live in many other places because basic protections would not exist. We could, for instance, lose our housing if a landlord chose to discriminate. Either of us could be fired from our jobs simply for being in a committed relationship. We are also concerned about our transgender friends being targeted. Many trans women are killed for being who they are. Please protect our right to love and create families of our choosing.

I urge you to consider passing HB160.