

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN  
MAYOR JOHN A. McNALLY



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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December 7, 2017

Hon. Louis Blessing, III  
Chairman, House Government Accountability  
and Oversight Committee  
77 S. High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: HB 160

Dear Chairman Blessing:

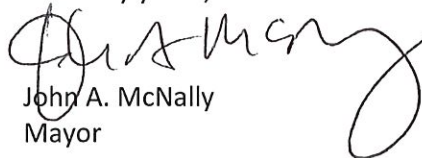
As Mayor of the City of Youngstown, Ohio, I support H.B. 160. In fact so does our City Council and our residents.

On December 22, 2016, Youngstown City Council passed approximately 20 ordinances making it illegal for any person or entity to discriminate against another person based on sexual orientation and gender identity. These ordinances cover discrimination in City employment, private employment, in public accommodations and housing matters, the provision of credit and to provide equal employment opportunities for all our citizens. These ordinances also empowered the City's Human Relations Commission to investigate any and all such discriminatory actions.

In approximately 30 states across the country, the LGBT community lacks expedient protections from employment and housing related discrimination. I believe that all residents of Ohio should be treated equally. According to the Center for American Progress, "{n}early 3/4 of Ohioans favor employment and housing laws that make it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity." Youngstown is one of 20 proud Ohio cities that affords such protection to our LGBT community. I submit that the State of Ohio should follow the lead of these 20 cities and embed such protections in State law.

As the Mayor of Youngstown, I believe discrimination against members of our LGBT community is simply wrong. It is wrong for such discrimination to exist anywhere in the State of Ohio. I ask for the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee to support H.B. 160.

Sincerely yours,



John A. McNally  
Mayor