

# CREATIVE COMMUNITY.

January 18, 2018

Re: Letter in Support of HB160

To the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee:

Chair Blessing III, Vice Chair Reineke, ranking minority member Clyde, and the members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, my name is Melanie Corn, and I am the President of Columbus College of Art & Design (CCAD). I support the legislation, HB 160, being considered.

Simply put, I believe that all residents of Ohio should be treated equally and deserve to be protected against discrimination. Not only is this the right thing to do, but it's good for business. The majority of Ohio citizens and businesses support such protections; and, while many businesses and cities in the state already offer protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, it should not be up to an individual to navigate a patchwork of private and public rules and be forced to make decisions about where they work and live based on local laws and business policies. Our entire state should be a place where every member of our community is welcomed, embraced, and protected.

As an educator, I stand in support of this law because I want CCAD's graduates to stay here in Ohio. While they have more and more opportunities to find fantastic jobs within Ohio's thriving creative economy, research shows that college graduates today don't simply go where the jobs are. They choose to live in communities that align with their values and offer culture, amenities, and services important to them.

CCAD's campus is one that fully supports our LGBT community members, and I'm hopeful that all our students will graduate and not only find great job opportunities in Ohio but an environment in the state that aligns with our college's values by ensuring everyone is protected against discrimination where they live and work.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my support for HB 160. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have as a follow up. And, thank you for your service to the state of Ohio.