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TO: House Ways and Means Committee  
Chairman Representative Tim Schaffer  
Ranking Minority Member John M. Rogers

RE: Support of House Bill 333, Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination

Dear Chairman Schaffer and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Josh Brown and I am Legal Counsel and Director of Policy for Citizens for Community Values (CCV), a non-partisan, non-profit organization. We write today to **support** House Bill (HB 333) which would eliminate the penalty paid when a married couple is pushed into a higher income bracket when their income is combined, as described in the sponsor's testimony.

The General Assembly should pass this bill to eliminate this penalty in an effort to promote marriage and its benefits for our society. Men are especially transformed by marriage and family. According to the United States Department of Labor statistics, men who are married work over 400 hours more than single men. They seek promotion, pursue education, and net more than 20% more income than their single peers. A Harvard study found that married men are far less likely to quit their jobs before they have arranged for other employment. The Journal of the American Medical Association reported the health benefit of being married is equivalent to being in an age category 10 years younger. For a comprehensive look at these and other benefits, we would recommend the book "For Richer or Poorer" by Robert L. Lerman and W. Bradford Wilcox.

Unfortunately, far less people today are experiencing the benefits of marriage. About 30% less adults are married today than in 1960. This problem is especially acute among people in lower income brackets who would most benefit from the transformation of marriage.

Passing this bill would send a message that the General Assembly believes in the benefits of marriage, especially if it is a part of a broader policy to promote marriage in our society.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Brown, Esq.  
Legal Counsel & Director of Policy  
Citizens for Community Values

*Citizens for Community Values (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected.*  
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