

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and the members of the House Civil Justice Committee, my name is Alexandria Summers and I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Like so many others in the LGBT community, Ohio is my home. I grew up in northeast Ohio and am currently attending the Ohio State University. I love Ohio. I have never lived anywhere else and I have no plans to live anywhere else. My family has farmed here for over a century, and one day I hope to raise a family here like generations past. But the knowledge that one day, I can be fired from my job, evicted from my home, and denied service because of something as irrelevant as the person I love, makes me feel unwanted and unappreciated by my home state.

Protecting LGBT people is not only morally correct and in line with the fundamental values of opportunity, fairness, and liberty that our country was founded on, but it is the incredibly beneficial for Ohio. Top corporations are reluctant to locate their businesses or move talented employees to a place that refuses to ensure their employees happiness. The Center for American Progress has estimated the national cost of workplace discrimination is \$64 billion dollars annually. Furthermore, Ohio residents want this bill passed. Nearly three quarters of Ohioans favor employment and housing laws that make it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity. To deny Ohioans the protective legislation they want is to neglect one's fundamental duty as a representative of the people.

Why am I not worth the right to put in an honest day of work, to be judged on my merit, and to provide for a family one day?

I urge you to pass HB369, the Ohio Fairness Act. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alexandria Summers