

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and the members of the House Civil Justice Committee, my name is Allison Sylvia I am a clinical psychology doctoral student at the University of Cincinnati, and I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

The Ohio Fairness Act is not only the right thing to do — especially for the mental health of Ohioans. Lawful discrimination against people who are trying to contribute to our state sends a message to these citizens that they are not important or wanted. As you can imagine, these messages culminate in poorer mental health. Bostwick and colleagues (2014) demonstrated this negative association, showing that Midwestern LGBTQ people who experience discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation were more likely to experience clinical anxiety and depression.

I support the Ohio Fairness Act because all Ohioans deserve fair treatment and equal opportunity under the law. No one should be fired from their job, denied housing, or refused a sale simply because of who they are or who they love. LGBTQ people should be able to work hard, provide for their families, contribute to their communities, and engage fully in society without fear of discrimination. The Ohio Fairness Act is common-sense policy based on the principles of equality, freedom, and dignity.

Please vote yes on House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Allison Sylvia