

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

I am a lesbian student attending The Ohio State University. The passing of this bill would ensure to me that myself and fellow queer people would be treated equally in the workplace in Ohio. I have worked in businesses before where slurs were used among coworkers, and it made me feel like if I was out in the workplace I would not be supported by my employers and coworkers. The inability to be out at work without the reassurance that I'd be protected from discrimination made work a very stressful place.

It's not merely a matter of hurt feelings; it made me less productive in my workplace. When there's inequality among coworkers and the people without power don't have protections, it puts them in a vulnerable position that can get abused by those in power. Most Ohio businesses are in favor of protections against discrimination. Their views should be represented.

I urge you to pass House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emmy Pratt