

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and the members of the House Civil Justice Committee, my name is Jessica Simmons, I am the owner of a small financial services firm in Columbus, and I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

I am an LGBTQ ally because I believe that all people are equal. Our country was founded on this principle, yet we have not always lived by it. In a world that can sometimes feel filled with hate and negativity, we should advocate for anything that reduces discord and promotes love.

I know some people speak out against the LGBTQ community based on a religious perspective, but I have never understood that. If God created all people, how is any one group excluded from the love of their creator? All people deserve a chance to be happy, to give back to their communities through employment opportunities and neighborhood development, and to be able to live life free from fear and repression.

Our community will not advance by stifling voices that could potentially drive positive change. Please vote yes on House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[NAME]

[TITLE, ORG NAME]