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Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and the members of the House Civil Justice Committee, the University of Cincinnati is submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

The University of Cincinnati serves our students, the people of Ohio, the nation, and the world as a premier, public, urban research university dedicated to undergraduate, graduate, and professional education, experience-based learning, and research. We are committed to excellence and diversity in our students, faculty, staff, and all of our activities. We aspire toward inclusive excellence by leading with courage and compassion, treating everyone with dignity and respect, and enhancing the quality of life for everyone with whom we connect.

In order to reach its goal of inclusivity, the University of Cincinnati, along with over 800 businesses, has joined Ohio Business Competes, the statewide coalition of businesses that support LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections. However, it's up to Ohio's lawmakers to extend comprehensive nondiscrimination protections to the LGBTQ community in all areas of life - employment, housing, and public accommodations. The Ohio Fairness Act would do just that.

With passage of House Bill 369, Ohio will join many other states in ensuring the full protection of LGBTQ individuals from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Please stand with our fellow Ohioans in providing equality for all.

The University of Cincinnati respectfully urges you to pass House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act. Thank you for your time and consideration.