

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

I moved back to my hometown of Cleveland after living in California for 15 years, and my experience has shown me that Ohio is far behind the times in terms of equal rights for the LGBTQ population. The idea that someone can be legally fired from their job or denied housing or access to a public place because someone perceives that I am gay and doesn't like it is horrifying.

We want nothing more than equal protection under the law. It's time for Ohio to keep moving forward, attract and retain fantastic LGBTQ Ohioans, and come to terms with the fact that we exist and we deserve the same rights as you do. I believe that this bill can push Ohio into the present and stage it as a leader in the future.

Show us that we matter, that you care enough to do the right thing. Please vote yes on House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marcy Ronen