



To: Ohio House Civil Justice Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, Senior Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association
Joe Rosato, Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: January 28, 2020

Re: HB 369

On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, we are writing in support of House Bill 369, which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in employment, housing, or public accommodations. The provisions in HB 369 are supported by nearly 600 organizations in Ohio and nationwide, across the spectrum of business and public sectors.

It is the policy of the OSMA to support the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) individuals from discriminating practices and harassment, and to advocate for equal rights protections to all patient populations. This policy was adopted by our membership in part because discrimination and harassment can have negative impacts on the health and well-being of individuals in our communities. For example, individuals with housing insecurity are more likely to report delayed visits to doctors and poor or fair health outcomes.

HB 369 would align Ohio with many other states that have added explicit protections from discrimination and harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. This bill not only protects individuals in our communities that may be vulnerable to discriminatory practices, but also sends an important message to the rest of the country that Ohio is an inclusive and supportive environment in which to live and work.

As always, the OSMA appreciates the opportunity to be a meaningful contributor to the legislative process. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.