

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Minority Member Brown, and the members of the House Civil Justice Committee:

My name is Pam Conine and I am writing in support of House Bill 369.

I am the mayor of Yellow Springs, Ohio. We are one of the 26 Ohio municipalities with legislation banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Ask yourself, what is missing from this sentence: "Currently, in Ohio, it is illegal to discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, military status, national origin, disability, age and ancestry." Give up? In Ohio, it is still legal to refuse to hire people, rent them an apartment, or serve them at a business because they are LGBTQ.

In Yellow Springs, we are on record as banning discrimination against LGBTQ individuals and support House Bill 369, "The Ohio Fairness Act." As our elected lawmakers, we want your support in ensuring that all communities in Ohio provide equality for all citizens. It's time to do away with the current patchwork of local protections that exist in some localities and not in others. State passage is needed.

I urge you to pass HB 369.