

Chair Blessing III, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Minority Member Clyde, and the members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee:

My name is Pam Conine and I am writing in support of House Bill 160.

I am the newly elected mayor of Yellow Springs, Ohio. We are one of the 19 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 160, "The Ohio Fairness Act." As our elected lawmakers, we want your support in ensuring that all communities in Ohio provide equality for all citizens.

I urge you to pass HB160.