

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

My name is Paula M. Jackson and I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 160.

I am an Episcopal priest, serving now for 28 years as Rector of a multicultural parish in Cincinnati. LGBTQ persons have been among the most dedicated, generous, ethical, and inspiring members of our parish throughout these years. Sadly, they have also faced disproportionate heartbreak and injustice as the victims of legally permitted discrimination of every kind, for no reason other than someone's personal dislike of people perceived to be different in sexual orientation or gender expression. It is time to require the basic values of civility and equal justice to apply to all our citizens.

I urge you to pass House Bill 160.