Testimony regarding HB-36 from Dale Christian, Troy, Ohio

Thank you for this opportunity to address you today.

I am Dale Christian, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Troy, Ohio and have been in this

position since 1999.

I wholeheartedly endorse H.B.-36 and appreciate the foresight of this bill. We are assured of religious freedom in our country according to the First Amendment of our nation’s Constitution as well as by the Constitution of the great State of Ohio. This bill helps preserve and perpetuate our religious freedoms as we, people of faith, deem appropriate and best.

We view the marriage ceremony as a worship service of our church and an expression of our faith. It is therefore a significant aspect of the exercise of our faith and practice. We view marriage as not merely a civil union but a union ordained by God and sanctified by Him, picturing to us the mystical union that is between Christ and his church. In light of this conviction, our church has adopted a marriage policy that explains the parameters, based upon the Scriptures, whereby we will conduct a marriage ceremony. H.B. 36 ensures that our policy will not be compromised or impinged upon by our government and allows for the “free exercise” of our faith in this matter.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support of this important H.B. 36.