



**State Representative Erica C. Crawley
Ohio House District 26
House Bill 221 Sponsor Testimony (as prepared)**

Crawley

Good Afternoon Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 221, legislation that would require the Ohio Civil Rights Commission establish and maintain a system for an individual to anonymously report wage discrimination by an employer in violation of the Ohio Civil Rights Law.

Currently, Ohioans can file individual or group charges of discrimination for investigation to the Commission. Under House Bill 221, complaints can be submitted by calling a toll-free telephone number or through the Commission's website with the option to remain anonymous. It is my hope that with the creation of this anonymous complaint system, workers will know they have a safe space to address their concerns, without fear of retaliation or harassment.

Let us remember when we are all paid equally for the work that we do, society as a whole benefits. By enacting these policies, we will keep Ohio's Promise that if you work hard you can get ahead regardless of your race, color, religion, sex, military status, national origin, disability, age, or ancestry.

Thank you, Chairman Hambley and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 221. My joint sponsor and I are happy to answer any questions the committee may have.