

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

My name is Anna Cote, and I am writing this letter to you in support of House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

As a bisexual person, I do not feel safe being out at my work due to the lack of LGBTQ+ protections. As part of my inability to be truly open about who I am, I am prevented from forming deeper, meaningful relationships with my coworkers. I listen to them speak about their partners, yet I cannot reciprocate for fear of repercussions. It pains me that I cannot give back into our relationships the same way they do, and that I may be fired for existing authentically.

I also stand for my transgender siblings. As a cisgender woman, I know there is no threat from allowing others to use the restrooms in peace. Transgender protections are not a threat to privacy or safety, as transgender people are not a threat. Harassment will continue to be illegal; and passing non-discrimination laws has not increased public safety incidents as shown by over 250 cities in the U.S.

Once again, I am asking you to pass House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act, to protect vulnerable Ohio residents from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

Regards,

Anna Cote