

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and the members of the House Civil Justice Committee, my name is Carli Barnett, and I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

I support the Ohio Fairness Act because I believe that all human beings deserve the right to pursue employment of their choosing, live in their communities without fear of discrimination, and access public resources. History has shown that discrimination on any basis is immoral, unethical, and unjust. Many will cite religion as a reason for such discrimination. As a Christian, I believe that such discrimination is the exact opposite of what the Bible teaches. Instead, we are called to love others, not to condemn or suppress. As an Ohioan, I believe that we, as a State, need to be at the forefront of advocating for the rights of our citizens. It is appalling that almost half of our states have already surpassed us in providing basic rights to their citizens. We should be first in bringing justice to minorities and other populations that are discriminated against.

I trust that you will uphold the ideal that all men are created equal. Please vote yes on House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carli Barnett