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

We thank you for this opportunity to address HB 369, and we urge you to pass this legislation as it is important to creating a strong, productive, and efficient state economy. In order to achieve this, businesses must hire the best and most qualified individuals for available positions without regard to arbitrary and irrelevant factors. Protecting individuals from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will help attract qualified job candidates to Ohio, ensuring that small businesses, like ours, are able to hire the best people and compete in the modern economy. This is a basic fundamental economic premise, not an ideological one. For this reason, we urge your support.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. McTigue
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