

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

I am a married lesbian woman in a 25-year relationship, and have many gay immediate family members. I came out in the early 70s in the community of Dayton. During that time, I have regularly experienced the harms of discrimination based on my sexual orientation.

I have been asked to resign from my work study job which involved counseling at-risk youth, and I have been excommunicated from my church due to my position with a Wright State gay activist alliance organization. I have even been physically assaulted with a baseball bat for holding hands at a crosswalk with my partner.

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is real and we must do something about it.

It is for these reasons, I urge you to pass House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.