

Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and the members of the House Civil Justice Committee, Cleveland State University is submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Cleveland State University is an urban serving, public research institution with 17,000-plus students, founded in 1964. CSU's mission is to: Empower Students, Create Knowledge, and Engage Communities that Shape Our World, and we are a diverse institution where collaboration and involvement of all is encouraged, all voices are heard, and treated with dignity and respect. CSU has the most diverse student population among Ohio's four-year public institutions and was ranked 18th in the nation, by The Brookings, among public universities Institute in providing upward social mobility to its graduates.

Regardless of our differences in backgrounds and beliefs, as humans, we all have the same basic wants and needs. We all want housing to shelter us, food to nourish us, and the ability to earn a wage that enables us to provide for our families. However, without the basic protections provided by House Bill 369, some Ohioans will continue to be denied employment or terminated, evicted, or refused service based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. We are looking to the Ohio House of Representatives to lead on this issue.

With passage of House Bill 369, Ohio will join many other states in ensuring the full protection of LGBTQ individuals from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Please stand with our fellow Ohioans in providing equality for all.

We respectfully urge you to pass House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act. Thank you for your time and consideration.