

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

I have been fortunate. When I worked for NCR, I came out as transgender and was fully supported by everyone, from the president and CEO or down. Now I work representing HP (Hewlett-Packard). At a conference recently I publicly thanked the HP Global VP for Diversity, Leslie Slayton Brown, for supporting me when I called out a training video for being offensive to transgender people, effectively outing myself to everyone. The response was an enthusiastic round of applause from everyone in attendance, a big hug from Ms. Slayton Brown, and nothing but positive comments from everyone, including the managers and supervisors and more. I could not and would not have done this without the ongoing support of HP of me as a talented person.

Unfortunately, I know many LGBT brothers and sisters who have not been so fortunate. That is why we need to pass the Ohio Fairness Act. The president/CEO of NCR said he wanted the best PERSON for that job, no adjectives required. If that person was LGBT, fine; the goal was to hire the best person for the job, period. Many corporations have echoed this sentiment. Let's make Ohio a welcoming state for EVERYONE and pass the Ohio Fairness Act.

Please vote yes on House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennette Caden