

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

Several years ago, my son worked for a large movie rental company in Central Ohio. As a customer service representative, he not only met but exceeded all of his sales goals. He alone outsold smaller stores in the district, and three different managers, on five different occasions, submitted his name for promotion. Promotions were required to be approved by the district manager. After the fifth denial, the current manager asked the district manager what he thought my son was lacking. He said he would be willing to work with him personally to gain the skills that the district manager thought were still needed. The district manager stoically looked at the store manager and said, "I think he's gay, and we just don't have room for that here."

We were shocked to find out there were no protections for this kind of discrimination on any local, state, or federal level. Not that it should ever matter, but my son is not gay. This legislation helps all people. Only an assumption of one's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression can lead to this discrimination. We never know what others think of us, and this should never be a condition of housing, employment, or public accommodations.

Please vote yes on House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lyn Herron