

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

I am one of three partners operating a small, fewer-than-50 employees coffee business, based in Columbus, OH. We are very proud to employ members of the LGBTQ+ community.

I support LGBTQ+ inclusive nondiscrimination protections for Ohioans, because no person should suffer housing or workplace discrimination based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Sexual orientation and gender identify do not have anything to do with job qualifications and/or workplace performance; similarly, they should not be relevant to an employer in recruiting or maintaining employees. Additionally, LGBTQ+ persons need protections to have fair and reliable access to safe and affordable housing.

Please, I implore the Ohio House of Representatives to protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination by voting YES for The Ohio Fairness Act. Please vote yes on House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Matthew Evans