

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

I am lucky enough to work at a university where I feel safe to be openly queer. A number of students have told me how much it means to them to see an out professor on the faculty. I'm someone they can talk to, and I'm there as a sign that they can be a scientist without hiding who they are. Sometimes my visibility has helped us recruit students.

But what happens when they graduate? It's just luck that I work somewhere safe. I have no actual legal protections. When my students graduate, will they feel safe enough in Ohio to stay here to work or will they head for the coasts? Other Ohio LGBTQ friends work in more hostile environments and the daily stress has some of them thinking of moving to other states. Let's keep our talent here in Ohio. Please vote yes on House Bill 369, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robin Snyder