



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

**OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

**Ohio House Civil Justice Committee**

**HB 369 – Proponent Written Testimony**

**February 4, 2019**

My name is Scott DiMauro and I am the President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). OEA supports House Bill 369 and recommends that the House Civil Justice Committee pass the bill.

All Ohioans deserve to be legally protected from identity-based discrimination. Currently, Ohio offers no protections from discrimination in the workplace, in housing and accessing basic goods and services based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. These omissions can have a negative impact on families and their students seeking stable and safe home environments. State law currently prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, ancestry, military status and disability. It is time to extend these protections from discrimination to an individual's choice of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

OEA recommends passage of the Ohio Fairness Act. Thank you for your consideration.