

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown and Members of the House Civil Justice Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to present this testimony in opposition of House Bill 369. Born and raised on a farm in north central Ohio, I love our great state. Early on the farm, I learned about stacking hay in a hay mow. If you don't stack bales tight, you will then be walking on that layer and have all kinds of trouble. Before I could even pick up the bales of hay, I was given guidelines about how to stack properly. The guidelines provided helped me to learn to stack a good hay mow.

Parameters are guidelines. Parameters are guardrails. Parameters assist in the success of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our Declaration of Independence reminds us that we are given these rights by our Creator. They are God-given. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Governments are necessary to set parameters. Setting parameters is a difficult job. I do not envy the task before you. To find success in this endeavor, a Standard becomes necessary. God provided that Standard with the preparing, presenting and preserving of His holy Word.

When government looks within, help is found. God's Word will thoroughly furnish unto all good works(II Timothy 3:16-17). When we look within, we are helped with parameters regarding our judicial system. Ecclesiastes 8:11 assists with this thought – "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

When we look within God's Word, we are helped with parameters regarding life and the killing of the unborn. Psalm 139:13-14 reveals "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

When we look within God's Word, we find aid with parameters for our welfare system. In II Thessalonians 3:10, the apostle Paul shares "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."

When we look within God's Word, we find help with parameters for sexual orientation and gender identity. Mark 10:6 "But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female."

As our country disregards God and God's Word, we fulfill prophecy found in Romans 1. God gave us His Word so that we could have a Standard by which to find parameters for life. To reject God and His Word is to set oneself for failure. Romans 1 reveals that as people are "professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." God then gives people over to a reprobate mind. A reprobate mind is worthless, without value. Romans 1 goes on to describe the behavior of those given over to a reprobate mind. They are given over to "vile affections." Homosexuality and lesbianism follow.

Mankind is corrupt. We are all sinners. There is no new sin. However, as a state legislature, we should not be condoning sin, nor setting laws to increase or encourage sinful behavior. Homosexuality is described by the word "sodomy." This came from a city named Sodom. This city was destroyed by God in Genesis 19.

I count it a privilege to share my thoughts with you today. I know that you are daily faced with difficult decisions, and I appreciate the effort you make. I respectfully ask that you let God's Word assist you in the decisions you make regarding parameters.