

Chairman Steve Hambley, Vice Chair Tom Patton, Ranking Member Richard Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for your many acts of service to the good people of Ohio including my family and church family. Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

I am the pastor of Koinos Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in Troy. Our church belongs to the Greater Dayton Association of Baptists, ninety plus churches in the Dayton area. Our church and all our churches believe the Bible alone is "the supreme standard by which all human conduct" is governed and judged. The official doctrinal statement held by all our churches states our belief according to the Bible that gender and sexuality were given to men and women as God "created them male and female". Gender and sexuality are assigned to people by their Creator and is inscribed in their DNA code. No law in Ohio should ever require a person to violate deeply held beliefs. HB369 would do this requiring them to acknowledge that a man can make himself become a woman. Everybody knows that is not possible.

There appear to be quite a number of house members who look favorably upon a bill such as this. I think the people of Ohio who elected them are shocked that their General Assembly would give a bill like this so much time and attention. I can tell you that I and the people of my church in Troy are not happy at all about this kind of bill. This bill is not the version of Ohio we want our families growing up in.

The kind of Ohio we love is the one where citizens **already have** protection against discrimination based on sex, race, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or religion. These are the kinds of protections all Ohioans can agree on and require nobody to set aside their religious beliefs and morality. Protections based on sexual behavior or discomfort with one's anatomy are personal preferences and attitudes, not "rights". HB369 chooses the personal preferences of one side over the moral beliefs of the other. Not every disagreement is discrimination, and our laws should not presume otherwise.

Inserting these ideas into the Ohio Revised Code would be a mistake since sexual orientation and gender identity encompass ever-changing definitions, and increasing number of terms which continually moves the legal goal line. There is no clear evidence these are inborn traits and much evidence these are fluid, changeable preferences. So these terms do not deserve legal protection and have proven so broad that inevitably, they become a tool to suppress free speech, freedom of religion, and well-established rights of others. The employer who is innocent one day is guilty of discrimination the next day because he/she didn't know that a new gender was discovered and new pronouns were coined over night.

This bill would open the door eliminating the privacy of Ohio's restrooms, locker rooms, showers, and dressing rooms. Biological males would be given permission to enter, use the restroom, undress, take a shower unclothed in the same room with our daughters, wives, mothers, and sisters. The notion that this bill's wide sweeping impact would not have this result is just not true.

It is already happening. It happened in my hometown, Troy, OH. In August, 2016 a junior high student asked permission to use the restroom of the opposite sex. This student had changed to a newly found gender identity. Legal counsel was given that the School Board must grant this student's request. Why? It was because of a deeply erroneous reading of Chapter IV. Chapter IV says nothing about using restrooms of the opposite sex. It only addresses equal access for girls to play girls' sports. Yet it is still applied this way broadly. HB369 is different. It's not specific but broad sweeping and certainly will apply to the private spaces of businesses, schools, and public establishments.

This will happen in children's classrooms as well. Parents have the right to expect taxpayer dollars will fund their children's education without reprogramming their moral beliefs. Forcing children daily to

look up to and obey as a good example their teacher who is cross-dressing is reprogramming their parents' and religious beliefs.

This bill is bad for businesses, bad for schools, and bad for families. Most of all it is bad for our daughters. Please give this bill no more of your valuable time and attention.