

Chair Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Minority Member Thomas, and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Shane Lowry and I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 11, the Ohio Fairness Act.

We're all just people. Most of us are citizens, not all. Most of us are upstanding, not all.

We're men and women, and a few that are harder to define. We're young, middle age, and elderly. We're white, black, yellow and all combinations between, fair and swarthy. We're just people, gay and straight, trans and bi, queer, fluid, and any number of self-labels. We're your coworkers, neighbors and family.

No person should have their rights restricted, by government, by employers, by banks, landlords, service providers, by anyone for any reason unrelated to the issue at hand. Can't do the job? Fired. Wrong religion? That has nothing to do with your job. A man married to a man? That has nothing to do with renting an apartment. Trans or drag queen or king? That has nothing to do with your credit rating or ability to pay off a loan. Lesbians? What does that have to do with ordering an Uber or Lyft? Don't want to deal with any of this? Don't provide your services to the public. That makes you liable to public accommodation law.

It strains credulity that this law, these kinds of laws, are even needed. But they are. It's time to get on with it and enact them.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 11, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.