

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

I've served as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for 40 years. I recently retired after serving 19 years at the Peace Lutheran Church in Cleveland Heights. It is a Reconciling in Christ congregation and is home to several gay women and men and their allies. In our ministry, we were always committed to outreach to the oppressed, and the LGBTQ community is an oppressed group.

I've known faithful gay and lesbian couples who have feared for their children in custody battles, and who have feared for their job security. The Ohio Fairness Act is another step to assure their personal, familial, and professional safety.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.