

Charles Nathaniel Taylor - Public Testimony Against Ohio H.B. 454 - 11/16/2022

Hello, my name is Charles Nathaniel Taylor, and I have been a proud Ohioan since June 2, 2020, when I moved from the small town of Goldsboro, North Carolina, to the even smaller town of London, Ohio, to be closer to my family, who lives in Springfield, Ohio. When I lived in North Carolina, in 2016, the government of North Carolina passed House Bill 2. North Carolina House Bill 2 was a ban on transgender people from using the bathroom of their preferred gender. This single piece of legislation caused businesses to immediately reconsider their plans for expansion in North Carolina. Adidas, Deutsche Bank, and PayPal immediately withdrew their plans for expansion in North Carolina. According to NBCNews, “Musicians Nick Jonas, Bruce Springsteen and Demi Lovato announced boycotts...” and “[t]he sports world responded, as well: The NBA moved the 2017 All-Star Game from Charlotte to New Orleans, and the NCAA relocated March Madness basketball championship rounds outside the state.” Ringo Starr pulled out of a concert he was planning on playing due to this bill, and a local theater lost \$33,000. The Associated Press (AP) went on to announce that North Carolina would lose \$3.76 Billion and approximately 3,000 jobs due to this bill alone over the next 12 years. We, as Ohioans, do not want our state to befall the same fate as North Carolina with our House Bill 454. House Bill 454 will directly harm and damage Ohio through companies possibly announcing withdrawals of business deals with the state. For example, the wonderful new Intel expansion being constructed in New Albany could just up and move out due to harmful and hateful legislation. Furthermore, who in this chamber does not love our Ohio State Buckeyes? We can fight over Bengals and Browns all we want, but we don’t want sports teams and sports organizations, like the NCAA or the NFL pulling support out of our state for tournaments and other all-star performances.

Furthermore, we do not want our state to be unappealing to musicians and entertainers to perform in. Taylor Swift will be playing in Cincinnati and Billy Joel and Stevie Nicks will be playing in Ohio Stadium next year. We don't want these talented and beloved artists pulling their concerts out of our state, depriving our citizens from enjoyable entertainment close to home, as well as depriving our state from revenue on ticket and concession sales. Therefore, I suggest the committee reject this hateful, discriminatory, and segregationist law, and stand with our transgender youth. I want to see an Ohio that respects the dignity of our transgender youth's lives and livelihoods, instead of the state becoming their biggest bully. Furthermore, I do not wish to see business, commerce, and entertainment leave our state due to our legislature making poor, short-sighted, and hateful decisions for young people who are trying to live out their lives to their fullest potential. I implore the committee to vote no on House Bill 454, for our fellow Ohioans. I thank the committee for this time to testify.

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