

T. Smith

Opposition Testimony for HB183

Please do not pass this bill.

I am a resident of Richland County and have worked in a manufacturing business for 4 years. I am currently an executive for that company which has been a mainstay in Mansfield for decades. My family and I, while not from Ohio, have been proud to call Ohio home for the past 4 years. If this bill passes as well as similar bills that discriminate against transgender individuals, my family and I will leave the state in order to find a more welcoming place to live. Our elementary school child identifies as non-binary. This is not something we ever anticipated, but because we operate from love and not fear, we have embraced our child's identity. For a state legislature dominated by representatives that trumpet their support of family values, I hope the majority can understand that loving one's children for who they are and loving one's neighbor in the same vein of acceptance is truly the embodiment of Christianity.

Even if my family did not have a personal interest in the outcome of HB183, I would still be against its passage for the simple reason that it is discriminatory and fear-based. In 2023, I would hope we all have evolved beyond these types of divisive and hurtful laws.