



Jaime Miracle, Deputy Director
House Community Revitalization Committee
Testimony in Opposition to HB 262
June 10, 2025

Chair Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for accepting my testimony in opposition to House Bill 262, a bill to designate Natural Family Month in Ohio. My name is Jaime Miracle, and I am the deputy director for *Abortion Forward*, formerly Pro-Choice Ohio.

Skyrocketing housing costs, an unstable economy subject to the whims of the president, continued inflation, lack of access to quality and affordable childcare – I think we can all agree that the problems facing families across the state and the nation are great. But once again, this legislature has decided to pretend to address the issues rather than consider real solutions to help the families of this state. With H.B. 262, the Ohio Legislature is choosing to divide Ohioans rather than bring us together and create lasting change that would help all Ohioans thrive.

Sponsors of this bill have compared declaring Natural Family Month to all of the other special months and days that are celebrated in our country: Black History Month, Women’s History Month, Pride Month, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day etc. But none of these other months declare that one identity is “natural” and therefore others are “unnatural.”

The Natural Family Foundation is the organization behind bills like this.: They state: “When we speak of family we consider that to be without question one biological born man and woman in a lifelong, committed, monogamous relationship with their biological and/or adopted children. Anything outside of these NATURAL parameters by design causes undue stress on the marriage, children and society.”¹

The federal law creating Black History Month, in comparison, states that it is an “annual public and private salute to Black History.”² Similarly, Congress established Women’s History Month to recognize that “women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historical contributions to the growth and strength of the Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways.”³

Other than the proposed National Family Month, no designated month is created to exclude people. They are created to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of one segment of our population, a population that is glorious because of our diversity. Declaring one group of families as “natural” and therefore others as “unnatural” does not celebrate families. It divides us. It creates a hierarchy where only one type of family is acceptable in our society.

This bill wishes to create Natural Family Month during the 5 weeks between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. During this exact same time, there is already an inclusive and established National Family Month with the declared intent to “both celebrate the strength of families and offer

¹ <https://www.naturalfamilystrong.com/about-us/the-nff-mission>

² <https://guides.loc.gov/black-history-month-legal-resources/history-and-overview>

³ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/100th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/20/text>

ideas to support the challenges they face.”⁴ Their website includes many resources for families and suggested activities for parents and families to do – including scheduling family time and eating family meals together, parents taking time for themselves so they can be a better and more present parent, volunteering in the community as a family and conversation guides for issues facing many families today. If the sponsors of H.B. 262 true intent is to actually support and strengthen families, then why declare a separate month, when a month with the same goals already exists?

If we want to encourage marriage as the bedrock of the family, declaring Natural Family Month is not what this legislature should be considering. In his book, *Poverty, by America*, Mathew Desmond looks analyzes programs that increase the marriage rate. One example is the New Hope Program implemented in the 1990s. This initiative provided individuals living in lowincome neighborhoods with access to affordable health insurance, childcare, and wage supplements to boost their incomes. Five years after New Hope launched, participants randomly selected into the program had significantly higher incomes than those who weren’t and were nearly twice as likely to be married. Economic stability leads directly to higher marriage rates, not declaring special months.

Celebrating families and centering the struggles they face across our country is something that everyone should be able to get behind. But this is not what H.B. 262 does. I urge this committee to consider bills that actually strengthen families and individuals in our state, not continue to push an out of touch policy agenda that divides us just to score points with your political base.

⁴ <https://talkitover.org/national-family-month/>