

**OHIO HOUSE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE  
TESTIMONY OPPOSING H.B. 262**

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**June 10, 2025**

Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to HB 262, which would designate the period between Mother's Day and Father's Day as "Natural Family Month." Having viewed the first hearing on this bill, where Representatives Lear and Williams provided their sponsor testimony, I have several concerns about this proposal – not the least that it is an unnecessary attempt to put the State of Ohio in the position of excluding a significant portion of its citizens from the preferred designation of what counts as "natural" these days.

But first, I want to address a statement made by Rep. Williams in the last hearing. Toward the end, when fielding questions from the members of this Committee, both he and Rep. Lear repeatedly stated that recognizing "natural" families through this legislation was not intended to detract from other groups, just as Father's Day does not detract from Mother's Day, and vice versa. Both of them mentioned groups such as single parents and families with adopted children (including some LGBTQ+ families), but, as Rep. Lear bluntly stated, "It's not about them; it's about preserving the system that is best for children."

Be that as it may, it was one particular quote from Rep. Williams that stood out for me:

I have also received criticism from LGBTQ individuals and adoptive parents *and both of those have respective months* – one of which we're celebrating right now. Neither of those groups thought that their particular month was somehow demonizing people that weren't members of their group. But now, as soon as we introduce this [bill] where we're dealing with natural families, where a male and female produce an offspring, they want to come forward and say, "it doesn't include me." You can't have your cake and eat it, too.<sup>1</sup>

The attached appendix to this testimony lists all 89 "awareness months" codified in the Ohio Revised Code. And, per ORC § 5.2314, enacted in 2019, the month of November is, in fact, Adoption Awareness Month. However, rather than recognizing the contributions of adoptive parents and the value of families with adopted children, the stated intent of the legislation was actually "to give organizations, our community, and most deservedly the children served by foster care a platform to advocate for [the awareness of foster care and the need for adoption]." We're not celebrating adoptive parents in November – we're asking for more people to fill that role.

You'll also notice a glaring – though not surprising – omission from that list. Because, while Rep. Williams rightly pointed out that June is widely recognized as Pride Month, celebrating the LGBTQ+ community – including families – it is not so recognized in the State of Ohio. In fact, while bills proposing an official designation of June as Pride Month have been introduced in each of the last 6 General Assemblies, none of

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<sup>1</sup> Ohio House Community Revitalization Committee Hearing, June 3, 2025 (Rep. Josh Williams speaking), available at <https://www.ohiochannel.org/video/ohio-house-community-revitalization-committee-6-3-2025>.

them have moved beyond sponsor testimony at the committee level. So, ironically, with this hearing, this bill – which its sponsors seem to believe is merely putting so-called “natural” families on par with other types of family units – has moved further through the legislative process than any of the Pride Month bills ever did.

Of course, I’m sure the argument would then go, we just had a huge Pride celebration in Cleveland last weekend, and there are plenty more scheduled throughout the state, so it’s not like the LGBTQ+ community is under-represented, especially in the month of June. And yet, I once again have to refer back to the words of the co-sponsor, Rep. Williams:

If the state recognizes it, it gives it a certain form of legitimacy.<sup>2</sup>

The state has recognized 88 different causes as worthy of a month-long designation – including two separate recognitions for Melanoma/Skin Cancer.<sup>3</sup> Single-parent families are not on that list (there is a federal “Single Parents Day” in March, however). Adoptive families, as I mentioned previously, are not really on that list as such. LGBTQ+ Ohioans and their families are certainly not on that list, and as recently as last week, the Trump Administration said it had no plans to issue the traditional annual proclamation recognizing Pride Month. And, in fact, there is legislation pending in Congress that seeks to recognize June as “Family Month” rather than Pride Month. Yet, so-called “natural” families, which are the norm in Ohio and every other state in the US, are apparently so unrecognized that they need to be singled out through legislation so that people can be encouraged to maintain a replacement-level birth rate?

Allow me to just point out one other thing. While not enacted into law in Ohio or elsewhere, the time period between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day is already recognized by several organizations as NATIONAL Family Month. According to one:

Today’s families are living under stressful circumstance and this causes strain on the entire household. Two working parents, single parents, families of mixed ethnic or racial backgrounds, and same-sex parents all face different challenges in raising their children. National Family Month is meant to both celebrate the strength of families and offer ideas to support the challenges they face.<sup>4</sup>

Look at that quote: “working parents, single parents, families of mixed ... backgrounds, and same-sex parents all face different challenges,” and yet we can “celebrate the strength of families and offer ideas to support” them. Why can’t we do that here?

Many members of this legislature have criticized “The Left” for seeking to divide people and set different groups against one another. And yet, by intentionally excluding single parents, adoptive parents, and/or LGBTQ+ families, the General Assembly would be doing just that. We’ve already been told that this proposed designation “is not about them” and that the so-called “natural” family is simply “what works.” And, while families should absolutely be celebrated, they come in all shapes and sizes. Why can’t we recognize ALL families in the state of Ohio? Why must we tell some families – often the ones carrying the heaviest burdens – that they are less than worthy of this state’s recognition?

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> See O.R.C. §§ 5.2246, 5.2283.

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

Again, “[i]f the state recognizes it, it gives it a certain form of legitimacy.”

The state doesn’t recognize any of these other folks. And if you are bound and determined to push ahead with this legislation, then by the words of your own colleague, you are also denying them legitimacy. For a group that’s supposed to be concerned with what’s “best for children,” it seems like you’re turning a blind eye to an awful lot of them. Is that really what’s best for the children?

## APPENDIX

### JANUARY

Fibromyalgia Awareness	§ 5.2241	Enacted 2009
Radon Awareness	§ 5.2317	Enacted 2021
Thyroid Health Awareness	§ 5.2515	Enacted 2016
Blood Donor Awareness	§ 5.2519	Enacted 2018

### FEBRUARY

Black History Month	§ 5.2244	Enacted 2009
Teen Dating Violence Awareness	§ 5.2516	Enacted 2018

### MARCH

Colorectal Cancer Awareness	§ 5.2219	Enacted 2001
Eye Donor	§ 5.2223	Enacted 2002
MS Awareness	§ 5.2232	Enacted 2006
Multiple System Atrophy Awareness	§ 5.2268	Enacted 2013
Macular Degeneration Awareness	§ 5.2276	Enacted 2012
Deaf History	§ 5.2281	Enacted 2016
Craniofacial Acceptance	§ 5.2287	Enacted 2013
Ohio Maple Syrup	§ 5.2288	Enacted 2015
Career-Technical Education	§ 5.2295	Enacted 2014
Endometriosis Awareness	§ 5.256	Enacted 2016
Cardiac amyloidosis recognition	§ 5.2524	Enacted 2021
Bleeding Disorders Awareness	§ 5.2536	Enacted 2023
Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness	§ 5.2540	Enacted 2025

### APRIL

Child Abuse Awareness	§ 5.2222	Enacted 2002
Eastern European Month	§ 5.2298	Enacted 2015
Powerboat Safety	§ 5.2321	Enacted 2024
Sexual Assault Prevention Awareness	§ 5.248	Enacted 2022
Ohio Work Zone Safety Awareness	§ 5.249	Enacted 2022
Osteopathic Medicine Recognition	§ 5.2511	Enacted 2016
Genocide Awareness	§ 5.2513	Enacted 2016
Ohio Native Plant	§ 5.2514	Enacted 2019
Sarcoidosis Awareness	§ 5.264	Enacted 2019
Parkinsons Disease Awareness	§ 5.27	Enacted 2015

## MAY

Cystic Fibrosis Awareness	§ 5.2228	Enacted 2005
Nutrition/Physical Fitness	§ 5.2235	Enacted 2007
Lyme Disease	§ 5.2237	Enacted 2008
Nurses	§ 5.2245	Enacted 2009
Melanoma/Skin Cancer	§ 5.2246	Enacted 2009
ALS Awareness	§ 5.2267	Enacted 2012
Substance Abuse Awareness	§ 5.2269	Enacted 2014
Pediatric Stroke Awareness	§ 5.2275	Enacted 2012
Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection	§ 5.2283	Enacted 2013
Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness	§ 5.232	Enacted 2016
Brain Cancer Awareness	§ 5.2313	Enacted 2020
Maternal Mortality Awareness	§ 5.247	Enacted 2021
Older Ohioans	§ 5.2410	Enacted 2025
Asthma Awareness	§ 5.258	Enacted 2016
Neurofibromatosis Awareness	§ 5.259	Enacted 2018
Food Allergy Awareness	§ 5.2359	Enacted 2025
Drive Ohio Byways	§ 5.292	Enacted 2018
Lupus Awareness	§ 5.56	Enacted 2025

## JUNE

Prostate Cancer Awareness	§ 5.2217	Enacted 1999
Wines	§ 5.2282	Enacted 2012
Scleroderma Awareness	§ 5.237	Enacted 2016
Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness	§ 5.2344	Enacted 2019
Ohio Community Theatre	§ 5.253	Enacted 2015
Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness	§ 5.2520	Enacted 2018
Ohio Goes Boating	§ 5.47	Enacted 2017

## JULY

Sarcoma Awareness	§ 5.271	Enacted 2024
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## AUGUST

Military Family Month	§ 5.2265	Enacted 2009
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## SEPTEMBER

Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness	§ 5.2226	Enacted 2003
Leukemia/Lymphoma/Myeloma	§ 5.2230	Enacted 2005
Mitochondrial Disease Awareness	§ 5.2250	Enacted 2014
Brain aneurysm awareness	§ 5.2252	Enacted 2009
Preparedness	§ 5.2253	Enacted 2009
Childhood Cancer Awareness	§ 5.2254	Enacted 2009
Ovarian Cancer Awareness	§ 5.2255	Enacted 2009
School Bullying Prevention	§ 5.2296	Enacted 2015
Safe Driving Awareness	§ 5.2297	Enacted 2014
Hirschsprung's Disease Awareness	§ 5.2526	Enacted 2021
International Underground Railroad	§ 5.2531	Enacted 2022
Pain Awareness	§ 5.29	Enacted 2017

## OCTOBER

Breast Cancer Awareness	§ 5.2213	Enacted 1998
Hep C Awareness	§ 5.2215	Enacted 1998
German Heritage	§ 5.2236	Enacted 2007
Crime Prevention	§ 5.2257	Enacted 2009
Disability Employment Awareness	§ 5.2258	Enacted 2009
SIDS Awareness	§ 5.2290	Enacted 2014
Manufacturing	§ 5.2293	Enacted 2013
Dyslexia Awareness	§ 5.2294	Enacted 2014
Rett Syndrome Awareness	§ 5.233	Enacted 2016
Disability History and Awareness	§ 5.234	Enacted 2016
Principals	§ 5.2315	Enacted 2019
School Safety	§ 5.2318	Enacted 2022
Chiropractic Awareness	§ 5.2518	Enacted 2018
Hindu Heritage	§ 5.60	Enacted 2025

## NOVEMBER

Epilepsy Awareness	§ 5.2260	Enacted 2009
Omega Psi Phi	§ 5.2261	Enacted 2009
Complex Regional Pain Syndrome	§ 5.2271	Enacted 2013
Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency	§ 5.2299	Enacted 2021
One Health Awareness	§ 5.239	Enacted 2017
Adoption Awareness	§ 5.2314	Enacted 2019

## DECEMBER

Free Clinic Appreciation Month	§ 5.252	Enacted 2015
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