

Linda Harvey Testimony on House Bill 262  
September 2025

Thank you, chairman and members of the committee, for hearing my testimony today. I am Linda Harvey, president of Mission America. I also serve on the board of the Protect Ohio Children coalition. I am here to speak in favor of House Bill 262 and I urge the committee to recommend adopting Natural Family Month.

Honoring Mother's Day and Father's Day, and the weeks in between, is a wonderful idea. It's an important and positive statement in a new America where some institutions and companies are tiptoeing around these two holidays. In fact, in recent years, a [number of companies](#), including Levi's, DoorDash, Ancestry, Kay Jewelers, Etsy and Canva, sent emails to their customer base, offering the option to opt out of Mother's Day marketing campaigns.

We need to get beyond our own issues and continue to support motherhood and fatherhood and in fact, the mother and father family as well.

A consensus of research shows that children have a much greater chance of optimal life outcomes if they grow up and are nurtured in a mom and dad household. This includes their own natural parents or it may be adoptive parents.

Children thrive when they see committed parents of the opposite sex love each other and support each other. This in turn provides emotional stability and accelerates maturity as children in turn are able to interact positively with a member of each sex as they grow. Children in a mom and dad household are much more likely to experience social and physical well-being as well as academic achievement. They are far less likely to drop out of high school, be lawbreakers, or be incarcerated.

Yet there are some who advocate completely abandoning any kind of standard along this line. There are those who want to eliminate observance of Mother's Day and Father's Day, because they may, for their own adult personal circumstances, want to minimize the obvious idea that a mother was involved at some point in their child's life, or a father. This is adult-centered, not child-centered thinking, and we are awash in adults who live lives for their own self interest without considering the impact on their children.

And the best research available indicates that, measuring adult outcomes, [children do far better](#) being raised by mom and dad compared to children who grow up in alternative family arrangements.

The intentional denial of one or the other of a child's biological parents creates a gap that may never be filled. Moms provide identity and emotional capacity, while dads foster social and relational capacity. And when mom and dad are married to each other, this sends a message to children that this household is something they can count on, in a world where many other factors

seem scary and unstable. So for all these reasons and many more, I urge the committee to vote in favor of House Bill 262. Thank you.