

Thank you, _____

It is an honor to sit before this committee to share my thoughts on house bill number 262.

While I have no experience testifying before a committee such as this, I do have experience related to a natural family according to God's design. My wife, Laurie and I have been married for 43 years. My parents will celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary in a couple of months. Laurie's parents were married more than 68 years before their passing. We have three living children all of whom are married. We have 11 grandchildren, under the age of ten. Our family has been blessed, but also natural family order has been modeled well for us, for which I'm grateful. Our intent is to model for our children and grandchildren, that they may live in the same blessing that we have lived in. Frankly the current culture frequently runs contrary to those ideals.

In Genesis, the Lord God, our Creator, established the design for family order. The design was, and still is, one man, one woman united in marriage to have children and be a family. God blessed this then and still does today. For all of history, at least among Judeo/Christian culture, this has been the normal and natural understanding of what and who a family is. I would guess that since the founding of this nation, and in this case, particularly the state of Ohio, that that has been the understanding as well. I believe that in any past generations there was no doubt or questioning of what constitutes a family. Family was the foundation of civilization because of its

Divine order, for that matter it still is. When children develop in this structure, they learn respect, charity, stability, and cooperation which not only benefits the family but is also significant to the general positive functioning of communities all of the way up to well functioning states.

By taking a proactive stance to recognize and honor natural families as God intended it will send a clear message to the citizens of Ohio and an example to the nation that we respect, honor, advocate, and defend families in their historical reality, and understand Divine family order.

When we honor those institutions that God honors then His innumerable blessings accompany us. I firmly believe that applies to individual specific families but in a much greater dimension God's blessings will manifest across the state of Ohio so that our citizens may enjoy extraordinary benefits of God's blessings.

I support 'Natural Family Month'.