

Chair Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Minority Member Thomas, and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Alexander Davis and I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 11, the Ohio Fairness Act.

All citizens of Ohio should be afforded fair treatment and equal opportunity under the law. Regardless of who someone loves, or how someone identifies, all of us should have the opportunity to earn a living, provide for our families, and contribute to our communities. The Ohio Fairness Act would extend the same basic protections enjoyed by the majority of Ohioans to the LGBTQ community by simply providing a remedy through the Ohio Civil Rights Commission if someone is discriminated against on the basis of their real or perceived LGBTQ identity.

The Ohio Fairness Act is not only the right thing to do, but it's also good for business. Over 600 businesses have signed onto Ohio Business Competes to indicate their support for these basic statewide LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination protections in employment, housing, and public accommodations. These businesses know that nondiscrimination protections will help Ohio attract and retain the best and brightest talent, and empower workers to show up for work everyday as their full, authentic selves.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 11, the Ohio Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.