

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

I support the Ohio Fairness Act because I am a member of the LGBTQ community and a Christian. My reasons are twofold.

First, I believe all people are created equally and therefore should be treated so. For Ohio and America to truly be great, all of our citizens should have equal access to the basic rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. For those who are discriminated against, they are not able to pursue these basic freedoms promised by our constitution.

Secondly, as a Christian and leader in my faith community, I believe that Jesus came to reconcile the world with God and we are all beloved children of God. God's justice and mercy applies to all of us, not just a chosen few. I have never been discriminated against for my sexual identity, as far as I know. But it is a terrible thought that I could be. Citizens of Ohio should be treated the same; discrimination of any kind should be illegal.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.