

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

As a member of the LGBTQ community, I do my best to serve as an advocate in an environment that struggles to accept who I am. I work at a devout Catholic institution as one of the few (single digits) openly gay employees. I am also the only one who has housing provided by said institution.

After my second year in a job where I received exceptional ratings, I was asked to meet with the vice president of student affairs to discuss my future working at this institution. In a very candid conversation, it was discussed how the university wanted to support me and my "lifestyle", and find a position that "fit" what my goals were. Thus, I was offered an equitable position that meant I was not living in the university-provided housing. There was talk of wanting to support my loyalty to the institution, and how I was respectful to the mission. Although I do not feel pressure from my coworkers, I find it odd that I was the only member of our team to have an individual meeting "about my future and supporting the university mission."

We are all human, and sometimes others fail to see the beauty of authentically being you. Everyone deserves the opportunity to have a space to create who they are. I'm in full support of providing the chance for every soul to grow.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.