



Statement of PNC Bank in Support of SB 11, The Ohio Fairness Act
May 21, 2019

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee, we are pleased to submit this statement of support for Senate Bill 11, The Ohio Fairness Act, on behalf of PNC Bank, and the 11,000 PNC employees, their families, and neighbors who live and work in the State of Ohio.

55 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, too many Americans continue to face discrimination in employment, housing, and in making everyday decisions. While the Civil Rights Act by itself did not end discrimination, it marked a long overdue and landmark decision to give many Americans protections that should now be extended to all Americans.

PNC has made a commitment to our employees that we will seek every opportunity to ensure that they and their families enjoy fundamental human rights both at work and in the communities in which they live. It is simple fairness, but beyond that, it is simply in our best interests, and those of employers generally, to ensure that we attract and retain the talent necessary to compete in an increasingly complex global marketplace.

Diversity is not simply a tag line. It is critically important to making PNC a better and more competitive company. It is also inherently fair to ensure that all of our employees, and every individual and family in the communities we serve, have basic protections that allow them to work and live where they choose, and that there are no limits on their ability to contribute to our communities.

We fully support the executive order issued by Gov. Mike DeWine in January of this year to extend these protections to all employees of the State of Ohio, but we must go further.

All Ohioans deserve fair and equal treatment. As Senator Antonio stated in her testimony before the Committee earlier this year, we urge you to pass SB 11 and expand the state's anti-discrimination laws to ensure protections "by adding sexual orientation and gender identity," and giving "people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender the same freedom to work, the same freedom to live where they choose, and the same full equal participation in society."

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Business investment is following skills and talent. To continue to be an economic leader, it is incumbent on the state to welcome diversity, and ensure that all of Ohio's citizens feel safe, and have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and their careers. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce and a growing list of Ohio employers have already endorsed passage of SB 11. PNC is proud to be on this list, and a supporter of Ohio Business Competes.

Sincerely,



Kay Geiger
Regional President
Cincinnati



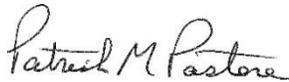
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