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March 6, 2017

The Honorable Ron Young
Chair
House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee
Ohio House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members:

The Ohio Association for Justice, the statewide bar association for trial attorneys, opposes HB 2 and urges you and your colleagues on the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee not to report the bill until you have further amended it.

Ohio has traditionally been a middle-of-the-road state when enacting laws. We don't overregulate and don't act injudiciously to dump valuable policy. HB 2 as currently drafted would decimate Ohio's landmark anti-discrimination laws that have withstood the test of time.

Your committee can find a middle ground in more areas of this legislation. You should not feel hurried to pass this. After all, there is no crisis that demands immediate action. You have not been presented with studies or research showing Ohio is faced with an emergency. I urge you to take your time and get this right. Please convene and preside at interested party meetings to hash out areas of disagreement.

Unless you make further changes to this legislation, you risk passing a bill that will strip religious employees, veterans, people with disabilities, women, minorities and older workers of their important legal right to seek redress for intentional harms inflicted by managers and supervisors at their workplace.

We urge you and members of the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee to take the time necessary to forge agreements on as many issues as you can in HB 2 before you report the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Van Doorn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John Van Doorn