

# Lighthouse Baptist Church

2929 Carpenter Road

Ashtabula, OH 44004

Pastor John Jones • Asst. Pastor Kevin Corlew • Youth Pastor Kenneth Quinlan • Home of Lighthouse Legal Ministries

To Senator Bacon and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding HB 36

“Allow minister not to solemnize marriages contrary to beliefs.”

My name is John Jones and I have been the pastor of the Lighthouse Baptist Church in Ashtabula Ohio for over twenty-eight years now. We are an integral part of our community and any person regardless of any personal belief or position is welcome to come to our church. If we can be of help to them we are privileged to do so. Having stated that though, I want to go on record now in strong support of the above referenced bill.

It is impossible to openly uphold biblical principles if our own government forces us to go against the very clear teachings of scriptures. It is not about “loving” everyone, nor is it about “accepting” everyone. It is about being a man of God who stands with traditional biblical principles of marriage, and having the freedom to do so in a changing culture. Our church takes a very conservative view of God’s Word, and the passage of this legislation will simply allow us to follow our conscience in these matters.

In a day when behavior that not so long ago was called deviant, disturbing, perverted, unnatural and more is being embraced by many and even protected with new laws and ordinances, please do not force me into a position that would potentially cause my rights to be violated. I want the right to simply NOT participate in those things that clearly violate biblical principles that I hold precious and true, and to keep our church from being forced to do the same. As a concerned citizen of Ohio and the United States, I am strongly in favor of this bill.

Thank you for all that you do for our state and country,

Sincerely,

*Pastor John Jones*

Pastor John Jones

*Come visit us at the Lighthouse Baptist Church*

Phone: (440) 964-0222

E-Mail: [pastorjones@lighthousebaptistministries.org](mailto:pastorjones@lighthousebaptistministries.org)