



State Senator  
**TINA MAHARATH**

**3rd District**

**Sponsor Testimony  
Senator Tina Maharath  
Senate Bill 138  
Government Oversight and Reform Committee  
Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

Good morning Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Craig, Vice Chair Huffman and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. Thank you for allowing me to present SB 138, to designate June as Pride Month in Ohio.

This bill is a re-introduction from the previous General Assembly and reinforces a signed Presidential Proclamation declaring June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. June is widely regarded as Pride Month throughout the nation; therefore, officially recognizing the month in Ohio is appropriate.

The month of June is significant to the LGBTQ rights movement, as it commemorates the Stonewall riots of 1969 in New York City, a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. Demonstrations continued for several days after police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay-friendly tavern and bar in Greenwich Village, in the early morning of June 28, 1969. Following the riots, gay activist organizations began to form and by June 28, 1970, the first official gay pride parades were held in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago. Over the past several decades, Pride Festivals and celebrations have extended throughout the United States, signifying the importance of this month for so many people. Many Ohio cities and towns have organized their own Pride festivities, in solidarity with our LGBTQ communities. Pride parades and festivals began as a means of remembering the significance of the Stonewall riots, as well as to create a space for inclusion and celebration of diversity.

We know that there is still work to be done and this legislation affirms Ohio's support for the LGBTQ community. It shows that we stand against the violence, hate, and discrimination that members of the LGBTQ community faced and continue to face. Chairman Coley and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to this issue and I respectfully request your favorable consideration and passage of Senate Bill 138. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions you may have.