

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

I support the Ohio Fairness Act for several reasons. From a personal standpoint, I have experienced horrific harassment and discrimination on the job, partly for being a woman in a skilled trade (a "man's job") and partly for coming out as a lesbian and speaking out against the anti-LGBTQ harassment and sexism that I experienced regularly in the workplace.

I experienced about 100 separate instances of harassment such as verbal abuse, pornography on my toolbox, and hateful notes in my toolbox that included the message, "Martha had a little lamb, she licked its little slit, she said I'm only half a man, I wish I had a dick..." On one occasion, a block of wood with a half-circle cut out to resemble a guillotine was placed along with a hateful note on my workstation.

This harassment and discrimination began in 1989 and continued, at first constantly and then intermittently, for about ten years. I can't go back and retrieve these painful years, but I can help to make sure it doesn't happen to the next generation.

Beyond my personal experience, I believe all discrimination is unacceptable. And as a union activist, I know it hurts the labor movement by keeping us divided.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.