

Chair Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Minority Member Thomas, and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Paula M. Jackson and I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 11.

I am an Episcopal priest, serving since 1990 as Rector of a multicultural parish in Cincinnati. LGBTQ persons have been among the most dedicated, generous, ethical, and inspiring members of our parish throughout these years. Sadly, they have also faced disproportionate heartbreak and injustice as the victims of legally permitted discrimination of every kind, for no reason other than someone's personal dislike of people perceived to be different in sexual orientation or gender expression.

Landlords, employers, and vendors have discriminated against them and made their lives more burdensome, with impunity. Some have even admitted that they were doing so – and said quite openly that as long as there is no law to stop them, they will continue to exercise their prejudice in this way.

It is time to require the basic values of civility and equal justice to apply to all our citizens.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 11.