



Catholic Conference of Ohio

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 353

Senate Workforce & Higher Education
Nov. 30, 2022

Good afternoon Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Martin, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee. My name is Larry Keough. I am the associate director in education with the Catholic Conference of Ohio and legislative advocate for Catholic schools.

Our belief in religious liberty is our fundamental basis of support for HB 353 in which state institutions of higher learning are required to adopt a policy providing students with religious accommodation.

This legislation is in keeping with an essential duty of government to protect the rights of its citizenry.

During Pope Francis' visit to the United States a few years ago, he stated:

“With countless other people of good will, (American Catholics), are concerned that efforts to build a just and wisely ordered society respect their deepest concerns and their right to religious liberty. That freedom remains one of America's most precious possessions. And, as my brothers, the United States Bishops, have reminded us, all are called to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it”

Thank you.