



Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

February 24, 2021

Ohio Legislature
134th General Assembly
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Honorable Members of the General Assembly,

You will soon be asked to support and co-sponsor legislation that purports to protect certain Ohioans from discrimination. This so-called “Fairness Act,” or a sexual-orientation and gender identity (SOGI) law, enshrines bias against many Ohio citizens in the guise of “protecting” others. We respectfully ask that you decline to co-sponsor or support such a measure for the following reasons:

- SOGI laws do not protect equality before the law, but instead pick and choose which citizens enjoy constitutionally protected freedoms and
- SOGI ordinances in other jurisdictions have proven divisive and have had a serious negative impact on the religious freedom and the free speech rights of business owners, religious ministries, and churches.
- SOGI laws trample First Amendment freedoms, strip away every citizen’s right to privacy, and unnecessarily infringe on residents’ right to run their organizations and businesses consistent with their mission and values.
- Adding gender identity to nondiscrimination laws forces schools, organizations, and businesses to allow biological males to access women’s showers, locker rooms, and restrooms, which jeopardizes the privacy and safety of women and girls, and can lead to long-lasting trauma.
- Systemic discrimination of an invidious nature has not been documented to exist in Ohio. Neither the state nor the businesses or employers in the state are closed to people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. As a matter of fact, the mere existence of the special interest group called “Ohio Business Competes” used to push this legislation shows that Ohio is not engaging in systemic discrimination on any level.

The legislation would create many unfortunate and discriminatory consequences, and is not in the best interest of Ohio families, businesses or faith communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Aaron Baer, President
Center for Christian Virtue
Formerly Citizens for Community Values

Co-Signers

Molly A. Smith, President
Cleveland Right to Life

John Stover, President
Ohio Value Voters



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Linda Harvey, President
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Jacqui Fetsko, Executive Director
Lake County Right to Life

Pastor Tim Throckmorton, Midwest Regional
Director for Church Ministries:
Watchmen on the Wall
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Meg DeBlase, Executive Director
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Pastor David Nuhfer
First Baptist Church

Pastor Brian Wonn
First Baptist Church

Pastor Reid Lamport,
Church of the Rock

Pastor Denis Beausejour
Mariemont Community Church

Pastor Drenda Keese
Faith Life Church

Pastors Owen & Ramona Applegate
Wrightsville Church

Pastor Matt Pardi
H2O Church

Apostle James Maye
Pilgrim Church of Christ

Pastor Mark Otten
Clear Mountain Community Church

Pastor Marcus Martin
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Brad Kehn
Church of the Good Shepherd

Pastor Greg DiMeolo
Christ Community Church

Pastor Wade Hartzell
Shiloh Full Gospel Church

Pastor Karen Culler
Hope Community Church

Pastor SueLee Jin
Anderson Hills UMC

Pastor Richard Bowman
First Baptist Church

Pastor Nehemiah Park
Grace Hope Church

Pastor Jeffrey Vandine
Family of Faith Community Church

Pastor Clyde Yost
Christian Faith Broadcast Inc

Minister Lavonne Bailey
Columbus Christian Center

Minister Shirley Fuchs
Declare Dayton

Minister Jim Walz
Cornerstone Baptist Church

Minister Renee Walz
Cornerstone Baptist Church

Reverend William Mazey
Grace Baptist Church



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Pastor Barb Herzog
Vineyard Toledo

Pastor JC Church
Victory in Truth Ministries

Mr. Christopher Long
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Pastor Robert MacClennan
Seed Spreaders Ministry

Minister Larry Walters
Christ's Creek Mission

Minister Ronda Hughes
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Pastor Tom Hare
HarvestNet Ministries