

Equal housing and employment

The Equal Housing and Employment Act was recently introduced in the Ohio House and Senate. When this bill passes, Ohio will join 20 other states and the District of Columbia in promoting fairness in the workplace and housing by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Most people think this type of discrimination is already prohibited. The unfortunate truth is that unless you live in one of those 20 specific states (not yet including Ohio), or in one of the 16 Ohio cities (Akron isn't one of them) that has passed similar legislation, it is perfectly legal to fire or refuse to hire or promote someone or deny someone housing because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Major corporations, wanting to attract top talent, have recognized that prohibiting this type of discrimination makes good business sense. They recognize that people from all backgrounds and experiences have unique contributions, and creating a healthy and productive work environment will attract the best and the brightest employees, providing the best solutions to business challenges. Companies with personnel policies prohibiting this type of discrimination right here in Akron include Summa Health System and the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

Most people believe this type of discrimination should be prohibited by law. Both here in Ohio and nationally, polls have shown for years that a sizable majority of people believe that sexual orientation shouldn't be a consideration when hiring or promoting.

Now is the time to turn this belief into legal reality for all Ohioans. Let your state representative and senator know that you support passage of the Equal Housing and Employment Act.

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