

House Bill 454—Proponent Testimony

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I am submitting this written testimony in support of H.B. 454, because great physical and emotional harm is being experienced by children subjected to attempted gender change.

First of all, these children are impressionable victims of a suspiciously rising “demand” for gender treatment of minors. The explosion in the number of gender clinics, many attached to major children's hospitals, as well as the number of patient visits in the past 10 to 15 years, has the fingerprints of an aggressive marketing campaign yielding many new, easily-persuadable customers. There is not suddenly a surge in “need” for children to be cured of their biological gender. It’s all promotion and our children should not be the target audience.

People are never born in the wrong sex body and to make that claim is to accept that delusionary behavior should be psychiatrically and biologically standardized.

However, if you listen to those who propose that there be no obstacles to any treatment of children in this way (even though this treatment virtually always causes serious, permanent complications), you will hear hysterical declarations that if these children are not treated, they will commit suicide.

In what child-unfriendly universe are we living where some adults seem to be 100% sure children will commit suicide if adults don't consent to the physical mutilation of their healthy bodies and don't discourage their natural development as human males or females?

Only a short time ago, the medical protocol for gender confused children -- and there were far fewer of them -- was “watchful waiting.” What happened to that protocol? I will tell you exactly what happened. The LGBTQ lobby intervened, insisting on universal approval of gender transition regardless of the harm to children. Those who refuse to go along will be vilified, punished in one way or other. Nasty tactics of intimidation are being unleashed on a routine basis, and people are afraid to stand and defend plain old common sense and faith in natural child development.

And this fear factor includes doctors.

The demand surge for child gender treatment has been spawned by this aggressive lobby in the absence of any research validating its safety or effectiveness. Can proponents produce solid studies demonstrating that [the impact of puberty blockers can be easily reversed](#)? That bone density issues are not a common outcome of these medications, nor cardiovascular complications, nor permanent sterility, nor loss of sexual function?

Yet virtually 100% of children who are gender confused are now ushered quickly into social and medical transition following brief visits with counselors and physicians. Knowing the lifelong

consequences and the inability of true legal consent by minors, this new norm is not only deeply unethical, it should be criminal.

How is this happening? Much of the blame can rest with schools, some of which have adopted a policy to encourage gender identity confusion in students while withholding information about a student's school behavior from parents. In Ohio, such policies have been advocated during teacher training programs at Hilliard City Schools and Parma City Schools, and private gender confusion "support" with or without parental consent is underway in Brunswick Schools and Kings Local Schools, among others.

The good news is that most Americans have not lost their minds on this. In a [recent survey](#), a majority of respondents supported banning gender medical treatment for children, and a large majority believes children should wait until they are 18 for gender surgery of any kind. A disturbing side note of this survey is that in spite of this support, a sizeable minority of those who believe this treatment is wrong want to keep that opinion to themselves. It's the intimidation factor once again.

Many lawmakers fear the consequences of a vote to ban these procedures, even if your conscience affirms such a ban. But the children of Ohio are looking to you for leadership and protection, not to give in to self-interested extremists unconcerned about long-term child welfare.

Children do not deserve to be conned into medical experiments when they are too young to understand that their feelings are virtually certain to change. They should be encouraged to wait and be patient, not pressured to be the latest poster children in a radical agenda.

Please vote yes on HB 454.

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