



Dear Chair Susan Manchester,  
Vice-Chair Al Cutrona,  
Ranking Member Sedrick Denson, and  
Members of the House Committee on Families, Aging, and Human Services:

Thank you for your service and thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent regarding the H.B. 454, also known as the SAFE Act (Save Adolescence from Experimentation).

My name is Kelly Wagner, and I am a very concerned resident of Ohio. I am here to speak today because children should not be experimented on. And they should not be making life-altering decision to their bodies when their brains are not developed enough to understand the long-term consequences of these decisions, including sterilization. I experienced a traumatic death in my immediate family at the tender age of 6. Because of this painful experience, I did not want to have any children when I was young. But I changed my mind as an adult!

I grew up in a very athletic family, and I loved playing sports. Looking back, I realize now that I would have been called a “tomboy.” I was very successful in all sports, and I received a 4-year full-ride scholarship to play college basketball. I also ran on the cross-country team as well.

Sometimes I wore men’s workout clothes growing up, and I progressed to wearing men’s daily wear in college. As you can see from the photo on the top of my submission, I provided a photo of me in men’s clothing, a photo showing one of my closets full of men’s clothing, and a current photo. I often wore men’s cologne as well. As a female, I didn't conform to the gender norm. I also believed I was born gay, and I was in relationships with females for several years at the end of my youth into young adulthood years.

Now kids are being taught to pick their gender. That teaching would have completely confused me even more. I recently saw very long lists of some of the new genders and definitions and one that was very interesting was omni-gender. This means you identify with all genders on all the various lists. I cannot help but ask, *when did we become the creator?*

Conservatively, 85% of children will desist by adulthood. Studies overwhelmingly concur that desistance (alignment with biological/ birth sex) is the norm for children who have not been gender affirmed. Some children grow up and find peace with the body they were born in. I am

one of them, I had the chance to grow up. I am so thankful that no one ever told me that ending my life as a female and turning into a male could help ease my pain, depression, confusion, or suicidal thoughts. I would have been very vulnerable to these types of suggestions from anyone because I was desperately searching for “the thing” that would bring me peace. I have not found an evidence-based test that can scientifically tell which kids will grow out of their gender confusion and dysphoria and which will be happy the rest of their lives with their decisions to get medical drugs and surgeries as a child. *Is there one anywhere?*

When I was 24, I moved out to Hollywood, California and I was planning to marry my girlfriend. However, I had several life experiences that completely changed the trajectory of my life. I pursued healing for my identity, my broken self-image, doctor diagnosed severe depression and eating disorders. As I dealt with some of the root issues that were troubling me, I grew to love my body and the gender that I was created to be. I also decided I wanted to leave LGBT behind, marry a male, and give birth to a baby.

I have been married to my amazing husband for almost 18 years! Today, I love being a woman; I love my body, and I take care of it the best I can. I am thankful that I can offer my body as a gift to my husband. We can come together and enjoy the beautiful gift of intimacy in marriage as a created male and a created female.

However, because of another medical issue, we have received a sterile diagnosis as a couple. I know from first-hand experience the suffering and debilitating pain this can cause. Please, do not allow this devastating diagnosis to be done unintentionally or intentionally to any child! Please protect our children, who are vulnerable and not old enough to understand the long-term consequences of these sterilizing drugs and life-altering surgeries.

Last, please be a voice for all the orphans and fatherless and motherless in Ohio who do not have parents. For many years, I have worked with foster children, and I have served abroad and in my local city. I have been volunteering for 15 years with local foster children and mentoring foster children one-on-one. They need people to speak up on behalf of their right not to be experimented on. Please protect their life, health, and fertility. These decisions are not only affecting precious children, but also generations to come.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify as a proponent regarding the H.B. 454, the SAFE Act. I urge you to vote in favor of this good bill to protect children. Children should not be experimented on, nor should they be making life-altering decision to their bodies when they cannot understand the long-term consequences of these decisions!