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Susan Manchester, Chair  
Ohio House Families, Aging and Human Services Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona and Ranking Member Denson,

My name is Jessica Kahn and I am a practicing pediatrician in Cincinnati, Ohio. I have been practicing pediatrics since 1999 and am currently licensed to practice in Ohio.

With respect to HB454, I believe that the Ohio General Assembly should leave the practice of medicine to licensed healthcare providers. I am deeply concerned that HB454 sets a dangerous precedent by interfering with medical decision making and with parent and caregiver autonomy to discuss care options in consultation with their child's medical provider.

In my practice of adolescent medicine, I perform a thorough evaluation on each patient and make treatment recommendations based on the best available evidence for that individual's situation. In my experience, parents/caregivers do the best they can, often in difficult circumstances, to make decisions they believe are in their child's best interest. There are many instances of this in my field, including treatment for mental health disorders and eating disorders.

HB454 would place medical professionals in an ethical dilemma: we would have to refrain from providing evidence-based care to patients struggling with a diagnosis of gender dysphoria or lose our medical license. It is not acceptable for a state law to prohibit physicians from delivering high quality, evidence-based care.

In a time when the demand for child and adolescent mental health care is at its highest, HB454 makes the demand even higher and more difficult to address. In my field, I evaluate adolescents' and young adults' mental health every day. I was trained to treat the whole child; ignoring a child's mental health or a diagnosis like gender dysphoria is simply not responsible care.

I implore you to vote no on HB454. This bill sets a dangerous precedent.

Sincerely,



Jessica Kahn, MD MPH