

Testimony on House Bill 454
Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee

Submitted by:
Eoghan Gallagher

Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 454.

My name is Eoghan Gallagher and I live in Columbus, OH. I have serious concerns with HB454 and I am in strong opposition to it. It is clear that this bill is an attack on Trans youth, as it only prohibits certain medical procedures when they are used for affirming the gender of transgender minors, while it specifically allows the procedures to affirm the genders of cisgender minors. This undermines the legislature's stated purpose of protecting children from unsafe procedures. If the legislature really believed these procedures were too dangerous to be used, they would prohibit them for all minors, and not just for transgender minors. This leads me to my next point.

As a parent, I am also very concerned that this legislature would so easily take away my right as a parent to care for my child. We, as parents, make very difficult, oftentimes irreversible, medical decisions for our children every day. We DO NOT take this responsibility lightly. As you know, these decisions relate to all manner of illness and medical interventions. It is understood that children cannot consent to these procedures. So, I ask you, where then are the proposed bans, from this legislature, on all the other much newer medical procedures that children cannot consent to? Of course, it's a ridiculous question, because it's obvious that we should leave the medical expertise to our medical experts and the difficult decisions that come along with that to the patients and their parents.

I just want to leave you with one last thing. My child is not your enemy. They did not seek a fight with you. They don't want to fight with you. I don't want to fight with you. My child is kind, empathetic, a good friend, and wouldn't harm a fly (literally). And they'll be a good citizen to this great state if you let them. Please let them live their life.