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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,

I am writing because I strongly oppose HB 454. As the parent of a LGBTQ child, I know how difficult life is for these children. For some everyday is a struggle, both mentally and physically. I truly don't understand why you want to add to this struggle by regulating a medical decision that should be between the child, parents, and the physician. By passing this bill I strongly believe we will lose more of our LGBTQ youth to self-harm, drug addiction, or worse suicide.

Just some general information.

*LGBTQ youth are 4 times as likely than their peers to commit suicide.

*LGBTQ youth are not more prone to suicide because of their sexual orientation or gender identity but because of mistreatment of society.

*Trans and non-binary youth at 2.5 times as likely to experience depressive symptoms, consider suicide and attempt suicide. These rates are even higher for youth of color.

*73% of LGBTQ youth report discrimination or being bullied.

*The standard of care for trans children states that no puberty blockers will be given until puberty has begun (not before) and nor surgeries until after 18 years old.

Lastly, I would like to remember Leelah Alcorn. She was an Ohio youth that took her own life because of the trauma she faced. She wanted her death to mean something and I believe she started the conversation and we should continue that by supporting our trans youth not hurting them.

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