

Sarah D. Corathers, MD
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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 Dr. Sarah D. Corathers, and I am a practicing Adult and Pediatric Endocrinologist with dual board certification in the field of hormone and metabolic health for children and adults. I have over twenty years' experience in caring for patients and am currently licensed to practice in Ohio. Endocrinology encompasses health concerns related to growth, puberty, glucose metabolism and diabetes, thyroid function, adrenal function, pituitary function, gonadal function, bone health, and gender dysphoria. Given my educational background, continuing medical training, and personal clinical experience, I am well qualified to submit written testimony opposing HB454.

As I practice Endocrinology, I perform a thorough evaluation on each patient. A treatment plan is established after a thorough medical history, complemented by physical and laboratory results, and conversation about individual preferences and goals. I review treatment risks, benefits, limitations, and alternatives with verbal and written materials, and offer 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. An example of this is decision making about treatment options for gender dysphoria, where **withholding care is not a benign option given the high rates of severe depression and suicidal ideation amongst gender-diverse youth.**

HB454 would place medical professionals in an ethical dilemma: I would have to refrain from providing evidence-based care to patients struggling with a diagnosis of gender dysphoria or lose my medical license. **I cannot imagine another diagnosis where a state law would prohibit medical professionals from delivering evidence-based care.**

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

I implore you to vote no on HB454. This bill sets a dangerous precedent and will undoubtedly cause harm.

Sincerely,

Sarah D. Corathers, MD
Adult and Pediatric Endocrinologist