

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking member Denson, and members of the Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Christina Ulrey. I am the parent of a non binary kid. I am strongly opposed to H.B No. 454.

My child came to me when they were in middle school to tell me they were gay. Me as a mother, I already knew and it didn't change my feelings for them. Then 2 years later they came out as non binary and preferred they/them to she/her. This was new and we rolled with it and made the necessary changes. It was harder for my husband to adjust to. But a wise friend said every time you misgender a person it cuts into their soul and who they are as a person. I understood it even more after this. Having safe mentors be it physicians, therapists, and teachers for support saves lives.

This bill will endanger our trans/non binary youth.

“The data is 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth.” Reference: Austin, Craig, D’Souza, McInroy (2020 Jul 29) Suicidality among transgender youth: Elucidating the role of Interpersonal risk factors - J Interpers Violence

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote No on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.