

Jessica McClure  
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June 2, 2022

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 McClure and I am a practicing clinical psychologist. I have over 20 years' experience in caring for patients and am currently licensed to practice in Ohio.

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.

As I practice, 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.

HB454 would place medical professionals in an ethical dilemma: they would have to refrain from providing evidence-based care to patients struggling with a diagnosis of gender dysphoria or lose medical license. **I cannot imagine another diagnosis where a state law would prohibit doctors from delivering 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. I address patients' mental health every day as a clinical psychologist specializing in pediatric populations. We are in the midst of a mental health crisis, with many youth held in the Emergency Department awaiting admission to an inpatient unit due to concerns for safety, while at the same time there are months long waitlists for outpatient mental health services.

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

Sincerely,

Jessica McClure, PsyD

**Attached witness form must be submitted with testimony. Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.**

**Email testimony to: [familiesaging&humanservicescommittee@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:familiesaging&humanservicescommittee@ohiohouse.gov). All testimony must be submitted 24 hours before hearing on June 2 at 9:00 a.m**