

Kimberly Schubert
9339 Gardenside Ln, Loveland OH 45140

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 Dr Kimberly Schubert and I am a practicing psychologist. I have over 10 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 medicine, 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. An example of this is agreeing to a psychiatric acute hospital admission due to mental health symptoms. These admissions take their children out of the home for several days and require significant family support due to the distress of their children's symptoms.

HB454 would place medical professionals in an ethical dilemma: we would have to refrain from providing evidence-based care to patients struggling with a diagnosis of gender dysphoria or lose our medical license. **I cannot imagine another diagnosis where a state law would prohibit us 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. Including those with serious mental health concerns, encompassing attempts to harm themselves or end their lives. This leads to overwhelmed medical or emergency department beds being occupied by patients who are awaiting transfer to a psychiatric facility, as these facilities have extensive waitlists and census demands. I was trained to treat the whole child; ignoring a child's mental health or a diagnosis like gender dysphoria is simply not responsible care.

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

Sincerely,

Kimberly Schubert, PhD
Staff Psychologist II

Cincinnati Children's
3333 Burnet Avenue, MLC 3015, Cincinnati, OH 45229

