

Erik Su
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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 Erik Su, and I am a practicing adolescent medicine doctor and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. I have over 6 years of experience in caring for children and adolescents, and I am currently licensed to practice in Ohio, where I have been provider gender affirming care for pediatric patients for the past year.

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 chemotherapy, a life-saving treatment with many serious potential complications for our pediatric patients. With chemotherapy, much like the treatments being debated in this bill, patients and parents are provided with the risks, benefits, and side effects of evidence-based care and are trusted to make an informed decision in consultation with their health care team.

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, and this would go against the very oath I took when I became a doctor to do no harm.**

In a time when the demand for child and adolescent mental health care is at its highest, HB454 is harmful for mental health and will make the demand even higher. I address patients' mental health every day, and it is already not uncommon for children to wait 2 to 3 months for a therapist or sit for days in an emergency room waiting for a psychiatric facility to have an open bed. 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,

Erik Su, MD

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. All testimony must be submitted 24 hours before hearing on June 2 at 9:00 a.m