

Dane C. Warner
3475 Morrison Place
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

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 Dane Warner MD, MPH. I was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am a practicing pediatrician and pediatric hospitalist. I have over 12 years of experience caring for the children of Ohio through my work at Cincinnati Children's Hospital since 2009.

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 **by restricting parental freedom and autonomy** to discuss care options in consultation with their child's medical provider.

When I practice medicine, I perform a thorough evaluation on each patient and make treatment recommendations based on the best available evidence for my patient. In my experience, parents and caregivers do their best, often in difficult circumstances, to make decisions in their child's best interest.

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 this time when there is a shortage of child and adolescent mental health care is at its highest, HB454 would make this shortage worse. I was trained to treat the whole child. Ignoring a child's mental health needs and a diagnosis like gender dysphoria would be dangerous and irresponsible.

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

Sincerely,

Dane Warner, MD, MPH
Clinical Instructor of Pediatrics
Division of Hospital Medicine
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

