

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 454

Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking member Denson, and members of the Committee.

I am writing today in opposition to HB 454.

As a pediatrician, I care for several patients who are struggling with their gender identity. It is so important that they feel supported during this time in their lives and that we are helping them in any way that we can. I have had several transgender patients admitted for suicidal thoughts and attempts. It was not because of any treatment that was given to them because they were transgender that they felt this way, it was always because of the care that they had not received and the support that they had not received that led them to suicidal thoughts and actions. According to the Trevor Project, at least one LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13-24 attempt suicide every 45 seconds in the US. This is a fact we can't ignore.

I, along with many of my colleagues including the American Academy of Pediatrics and Ohio Children's Hospital Association, oppose HB 454. I believe this bill is a threat to the safety of transgender children. As someone who is on the front line caring for children, I believe this bill will only lead to harm. I do not believe that any medical care that is currently offered to transgender children is extreme. It is done under the guidance of a medical team including mental health specialists and requires parental involvement. Transgender care is saving lives. Enacting the regulations in this bill will not stop children from being transgender, it will just stop them from getting the care that they deserve. Please allow us to continue providing care to transgender children and their families.

Thank you,

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