

Chairperson Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee:

Thank you for having me today. My name is Giles Roblyer and I'm here to testify as a father of a trans child because House Bill 454 is not about trans kids. It's about the *parents* of trans kids. This bill pretends that my 12-year-old child is going to stroll into an endocrinologist without me and be handed gender-affirming treatment like candy. This Committee knows that is not true. These trans children have loving, deeply involved parents who have spent years guiding, learning, doubting, praying, and worrying. Decisions on this journey are not made by a child but by parents like me, whom God has blessed with such a wonderful gift.

So I want this committee to see the father who will be impacted by this bill. Who am I? I have three core values at the center of my life: my family, my faith, and my country. I'm a corporate lawyer at The Procter & Gamble Company. I'm deeply involved in service to my Cincinnati community and I have what I call a Matthew 25 approach to life, including unexpectedly but joyously raising a trans child. As Jesus said, "That which you have done for the least of these, you have done it for me."

The right of the parent to decide what is best for their child without government interference is not just a constitutional liberty interest. It is what we call a natural right, or what I call a God-given right. In simplest terms, we don't co-parent with the government.

This bill suggests that I can't give informed parental consent to gender-affirming care because my child can't fully understand the risks and he may eventually regret the decision. But under Ohio law, any father can and often does give his consent for any number of risky, experimental, and irreversible surgical procedures for his minor child, such as major and dangerous invasive surgeries for cosmetic breast implants, butt lifts, labiaplasty, and nose jobs, liposuction, stomach stapling, and disfiguring piercings and tattoos on any part of the minor's body, including the face and neck. The law permits this even though we know minors often regret these decisions once they are adults. I can't find a single example of a medical treatment or even cosmetic procedure that Ohio law bans for minors as long as the parent consents. This is how sacred parental rights used to be in Ohio, until HB 454 came along to target a tiny minority of fathers like me.

Today, thousands of Ohio fathers whose children suffer from precocious puberty can make an informed choice that their child should take GnRH analogs or puberty blockers. For more than four decades, taking a course of puberty blockers for up to 2-3 years has been clinically proven as a safe and fully reversible treatment. But if this bill passes, the father living next door to me will be able to have his child with precocious puberty take years of puberty blockers to minimize mental health issues, but Ohio law will ban me from deciding to have my trans child take the exact same course of medicine to minimize mental health issues.

Why should one Ohio father be permitted to evaluate risks and benefits and decide what's best for their child, and the other be prohibited? The only explanation I've heard is that the sponsor of this bill believes that I've been fooled into believing that my child is trans so I can't make an informed decision. With all due respect, I give advice to the leaders of an \$83 billion corporation on complex legal issues including fraud and risk. As part of my job, I read and analyze the medical clinical studies supporting P&G's products. I've been a proud, patriotic

high-achieving American for 48 years. I have not been fooled. I have not been groomed. I know who my child is. I know the studies, I know the risks, I know the benefits, and I will make the choice.

I'll close by respectfully telling this committee the same thing that so many of our patriotic heroes have said when government officials think it's a good idea to infringe on our rights as Americans to choose where we live, where and how we worship, what guns we can own, what we can say and think and read, and how we raise our children: Don't Tread On Me.

Please vote NO on this bill.