

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

I am Jeremy Moyers, a resident of Columbus, Ohio, but I am not here today to talk about myself. I am a full-time United Methodist clergy person, but I am not here today to promote a religious point-of-view. I am the father of a transgender child, for whom I love and care! I am here today to advocate upon his behalf. I am absolutely opposed to House Bill 454, banning gender affirming healthcare for minors.

My son began expressing his discomfort with his body and representation as a female many years ago – gender dysphoria. Today he is 15 years old and uses he/him pronouns. He is prepared to begin testosterone hormone therapy. He is articulate and confident of his representation in the world as a young man. He has been cared for through the THRIVE clinic at Nationwide Children’s Hospital for the past four years. There is a team of professionals including THRIVE, primary care physician, school teachers and administration, and most importantly, his parents - who support and encourage his transition, emotional and physical growth, and maturity.

HB454 would RESTRICT my agency and responsibility as a parent to provide the best care possible for my son, whom I love and want to see flourish in life. HB454 would DENY my son’s access to safe, effective, and clinically appropriate therapies and prescriptions to fully be the person he knows himself to be. HB454 would LIMIT healthcare providers and other professionals from being able to properly care for the emotional and psychological well-being of transgender children. HB454 does nothing to support children, but only supports the on-going political agenda of those seeking re-elections. HB454 is NOT SAFE, as the misleading term of the bill’s title inaccurately portrays.

You are here for the people of the State of Ohio and, especially, to care for the children of the State of Ohio. I should think that providing the best care available would be care that is MOST INCLUSIVE to recognize and support children, especially transgender children. Please, do not continue with HB454.

I am a dad and I am a pastor. I love my son with all my heart. I also know that he is a beautiful creation and called Beloved by the One who created him. The One who has created all persons, also calls us to love ourselves and our neighbor, even our enemies. So I am asking, I am pleading with you, as a Christian, and, more importantly, as a father ... to do no harm and do not proceed with House Bill 454.

I know my child much better than the State ever will.

I know how our family wishes to support, encourage,  
and care for OUR son -- not YOUR child.

I wish to be able to provide the BEST, and most EXTENSIVE,  
and most INCLUSIVE health and mental care available to my child.

Please, do not support or continue with HB454!

Thank you for your consideration of families who love their transgender children.