

Lauryn Bertke
1349 Fleming St
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

November 13, 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 Catrona and Ranking Member Denson,

I am writing to you regarding HB454. Healthcare decisions, including gender affirming care for minors, should be at the discretion of the patient, their parents/guardians, and their physician/healthcare team. Gender affirming care is a personal health issue, and it is a parent's right to seek medical care for their children without government intervention.

Transgender children are eight times as likely to be suicidal compared to their peers. There should be nothing more important than the relationship between medical providers and the rights of parents to get the best possible care they can for their children. It is not appropriate for elected officials to attempt to practice medicine or override evidence-based medical decision making. I urge you to vote no on HB454.

Sincerely,

Lauryn Bertke

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 by Tuesday, November 15 at 10 a.m. (24 hours before the hearing).