

## **Lis Regula**

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cultrona, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee, Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Lis Regula. I am a widower, trans man, biology lecturer, and dad to a brilliant young woman living in Columbus, Ohio. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 454, preventing transgender youth from receiving proper medical care.

As a parent, the idea that the state would stand between my child, her doctor, and I accessing appropriate medical care for her is above and beyond governmental over reach. Rep. Click, sponsor of this bill, does not know us or our circumstances and yet he is proposing that he knows better how to care for her health than she, I, and her medical providers know how to care for her mental and physical health. If someone were to propose a bill banning chemotherapy for children under the age of 18, we would not be having this conversation, and yet it is OK to consider stepping in the middle of parenting in this way because it has to do with the LGBTQ+ community. I want to say that beyond a shadow of a doubt- seeing my daughter's joy in finding out who she is and how she wants to exist in this world that is so often cruel to kids like her is a gift as much, if not moreso, than seeing her chubby faced grin as she took her first steps years ago. Back then, her joy was in a bit of pineapple while today it's in an asymmetric skirt and infinity scarf. In both cases, I celebrate her freedom to be who she is.

In proponent testimony, Erin Brewer spoke emotionally about her experience as a survivor of tremendous trauma. I agree with her that there needs to be better access to mental health care for children who have been subjected to traumatic experiences that can and do scar them. The improved access to mental health care for these kids does not go against also providing critical care for trans youth, and I urge the committee and larger House to increase funding and availability for these kids. All children deserve appropriate, personalized medical care.

HB 454 would prevent that from happening for trans kids while doing nothing to help children in the young Erin Brewer's position, either. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous and embarrassing bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.