

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Gary Greenberg. I am a thirty year plus resident of Ohio, a retired educator, and a grandfather to six wonderful grandchildren - five of whom live in Columbus. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 454, banning gender affirming healthcare for minors.

Let me tell you a short family story. Several months ago, our daughter and daughter-in-law gave us the heads up about HB 454, and let us know that if it becomes law in Ohio, they and our five grandchildren will leave the state. "Of course, she said, we'll take you with us." And we will go. Here's why:

Our oldest grandson is entering middle school next year. Along with all of his terrific academic and social accomplishments, he is also in the care of a therapist for gender dysphoria. Should this legislation pass, it would directly interfere with his relationship with that therapist, with their plan of treatment, and with the relationship between a child, his health care providers and his parents. That is a profound disruption of a normal childhood, and a setup for anxiety and depression in coming adolescence. As if these challenges were not enough for an 11 year old, our grandson is also a juvenile diabetic.

So here we have a proposed new law in Ohio that would cause three generations of an Ohio family to flee the state. And we would be the lucky ones. Our daughter-in-law works in technology and can easily work from a different state. My wife and I are retired and can afford to move. This won't be the case for the majority of children and families impacted by this proposed legislation. As the governor of Texas, where they already have such a law, likes to say, they will simply have to 'come and take it.'

My question is this: Beyond the consequences for my one family and its small; family circle - Can Ohio afford to send this profoundly anti-child, anti-family message to all the new employees and families they hope to convince to move to Ohio in the coming years for jobs in organizations like Intel, Honda, CareSource, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, and so many others?

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

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