

Dr. Mark McLoney
Ohio Academy of Family Physicians
House Bill 454- Opposition Testimony
Ohio House Families, Aging, and Human
Services Committee
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OHIO ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chairman Cutrona, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the Ohio House Families, Aging, Human Services Committee, my name is Mark McLoney. I am a board member of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, a second-generation family physician, and a provider of LGBT care in a northeast Ohio clinic. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition in House Bill 454 on behalf of myself and the OAFP.

I am a First Family of Ohio member and have been practicing medicine in the Cleveland area for 30 years. I graduated medical school in 1989. At that time, I took an oath to serve my patients to the best of my ability.

I, along with the OAFP strongly oppose any legislation that infringes or has the potential to infringe on the clinical practice of medicine, that interferes with the patient-physician relationship, or that nullifies the professional judgment of physicians by requiring that certain procedures or treatments be delayed without regard to medical condition. Legislation like House Bill 454 mandates certain physician behavior without regard to the patients' best interest shows indifference for the patient-physician relationship and evidence-based medicine.

Family physicians often serve as the initial point of contact for patients' health concerns. Doctors in this specialty are trained to provide comprehensive health care for patients regardless of condition, to consider the impact of health on families, to understand social determinates of health, and to assist our patients in navigating the healthcare system including other specialty care.

House Bill 454 would not only criminalize best practice medical care for youth that is backed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and every other leading medial authority, it takes away the rights of parents to direct the upbringing and physical and mental health of their children.

Who is best placed to decide how to address the health and safety of individual children? Patients and their families along with their licensed healthcare provider are in the best position to determine what is best for each patient. House Bill 454 would codify non-scientific standards into individualized clinical decision-making and could prevent the provision of appropriate and potentially lifesaving care.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak against this bill which will set a dangerous precedent in depriving children of individualized care, parents of their right to determine what is best for their own children, and doctors of their ability to practice evidence-based medicine grounded in their professional judgment.