

Ann Becker
Testimony before Ohio House Families, Aging and Human Services Committee
Opposition on H. B. 454
Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Chairwoman Manchester, Ranking Member Denson and Members of the Committee

My name is Ann Becker.

I am an elected official, Township Trustee. Today I am not representing those 65,000 people. I am representing one, my son Mason.

A transgender man and the bravest person I know.

If this bill had passed four years ago - if the General Assembly had taken away my freedom to make medical decisions for my son, our journey would have been much different.

My testimony today is in opposition to this activist bill, it takes away freedom from a group of people that are not even mentioned - Ohio parents.

When some people think about the Transgender issue, they have a specific picture in their heads. Transgender story time at libraries, the transgender woman that won the swimming title. They say words like sexualization, indoctrination.... I'm here to testify, that most Ohio families that have Transgender kids are not reflected by that image. We are every day, taxpaying Ohioans.

I was co-chair of the Trump Campaign in 2016 and 2020. I am the Vice-Chair of my Republican Party Central Committee. I am a Catholic convert. My children were baptized, received the Eucharist, and confirmed. My opposition to this bill isn't a political or religious issue, it's about medical freedom and fairness under the law.

For this freedom loving body to entertain this piece of activist anti freedom unjust legislation, is shocking.

I'm an elected official, so I understand the difficult nature of the work that you do. When I evaluate this piece of legislation it has two very serious flaws.

The first is taking away the freedom from Ohio parents and doctors.

In its essence, this bill says that because I have a transgender child that I am incapable of making medical decisions and the State needs to make those decisions for me. That the doctors that treat my transgender child are incapable of making medical decisions and the State needs to make them.

Do you, Representatives, know better than me and my doctors, what medical decisions to make for my child? Do you? Do you know better than me and our doctors, how to care for Mason?

The level of care Mason receives is unmatched. I tell people about it all the time. Our pediatrician, our therapist, the team at Cincinnati Children's, myself, my husband, my son.... We are all a team. In my 46 years, it was the best level of medical care I have ever seen.

If you are unwilling to take freedom away from parents and doctors, you must vote no on this activist bill.

The second flaw in this bill is the injustice and lack of fairness. This is a bit more nuanced, so walking with me.

I have two biologically born female children. One Transgender man. One female.

This bill bans sex hormones for transgender young people. Young people exploring their sexual identity. No sex hormones for transgender youth.

For my gender normative daughter, born a female - identifies as female. Sex hormones are allowed. If she is exploring her sexual identity, I could go and get her sex hormones from any doctor in the state of Ohio. In fact, Ohio law says that she, born a female, identifies as a female could get sex hormones herself - without a parents' permission. Those sex hormones are commonly called birth control.

Sex hormones for my transgender son...illegal per 454. Sex hormones for my gender normative daughter, completely legal.

This injustice is an act of activism against transgender young people and families, not against a medical treatment. If it was about the sex hormones- both come with risk, all sex hormones would be banned. That may be the endgame of this legislation.

I understand the difficult nature of your work. You make decisions that affect 11 million people. As representatives, you must look at what protects our freedom and is fair and just for all Ohioans.

Please vote no on HB 454.