

November 14, 2022

OH HB 454

Opponent Testimony

The Ohio House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Susan Manchester, Vice-Chair Al Cutrona, Ranking Member Sedrick Denson, and Members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee:

I am testifying in opposition of the *Save Adolescents from Experimentation Act*, the **SAFE Act.** My testimony is strictly my own and does not represent any health care organization in the State of Ohio.

My name is Yumeng Zhang am a first-year medical student at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and I strongly oppose the SAFE Act. The SAFE act would create an additional barrier to inclusive, patient-centered care in Ohio by going against current clinical practice guidelines and medical literature. Furthermore, it risks worsening health outcomes for transgender youth and those questioning their gender identity in Ohio. HB 454 will prevent physicians from practicing evidence-based medicine and limit the quality of care available to Ohioans^{1,2}.

I urge the committee to support the science of good medicine and **vote NO on HB 454**.

Sincerely,

Yumeng Zhang

REFERENCES

1. Olsen-Kennedy, J., & Forcier, M. (2022, October). *Management of transgender and gender-diverse children and adolescents*. UpToDate. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from https://www.uptodate.com/contents/management-of-transgender-and-gender-diverse-children-and-adolescents?search=puberty+blockers&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~150&usage_type=default&display_rank=1#H65066871
2. Turban, J. L., Kraschel, K. L., & Cohen, I. G. (2021). Legislation to criminalize gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth. *JAMA*, 325(22), 2251. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2021.7764>