

## **Connor Mahon**

Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee, thank you for this opportunity to voice my opposition to House Bill 454. My name is Connor Mahon, and my pronouns are he/him or they/them. I am a student at Cleveland State University, and an employee of their LGBTQ+ Student Services Center. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 454, which would prevent transgender youth from receiving proper medical care that has been proven to be safe, effective, and necessary.

Every day, I speak with transgender students at Cleveland State University. Being at a university, most are over 18 years old, and therefore would be seemingly unaffected by this bill. However, the need to receive gender affirming care comes much before adulthood. Common sentiments among my students include the feeling that is too late to transition, even at just 18 years old. Hard to reverse traits such as deepening voices result in lower self confidence. The failure to receive gender affirming care has consequences that last one's entire life. Failing to provide gender affirming care results in worse mental health for teenagers, and the newfound freedom provided by going to college, and the ability to take control of one's self presentation for the first time, brings transgender students incredible amounts of joy. Why must we withhold this from them during their teenage years, an especially vulnerable time? They deserve support their entire lives. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this backwards bill that ignores current medical best practices and denies the humanity of transgender youth. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I urge you to oppose HB 454 and protect our state's youth.