

Bailey Fullwiler

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. This dangerous legislation is the opposite of safe and targets an already vulnerable group of Ohio youth by denying them access to life saving affirming medical care and revoking funding to hospitals who provide it. This bill would also threaten the safety of students in schools by forcing school guidance counselors and staff to abide by new rules that would be in direct conflict with the ethical guidance of their fields as well as title IV.

Gender affirming care is evidence based. I am a social worker in Ohio and consistently the research and my experience shows that gender affirming care results in less suicide attempts and better mental and physical health outcomes. This care is safe, effective, and makes a huge difference to protect vulnerable community members.

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