

Bradley Demlow

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.

I myself, live my life being who I am, a gay man. As part of the LGBTQ+, I am outraged that a bill like this even has to present itself to be voted on. I may not be a trans man, but I have a family member that has struggled with his gender identity for basically his entire life. The health care that is provided to him for his hormone therapy etc. has SAVED HIS LIFE. He is not devoted to helping and saving trans youth. We encourage people to be who they are, and love who they love without judgement, prejudice, or discrimination. I ask if you PLEASE, open your hearts to see that bills like this are not saving anyone, but rather killing young children. If you want their blood on your hands, vote yes. If you want to change the world for a better and make a positive impact as well as know that you've saved lives, then please vote no. You wouldn't want your own child suffering for their entire life. Don't let others.

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