

Jennifer Gile

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.

Health care is a human need and right. Health care should never be seen as a privilege. Please do not support these mean spirited and anti-human bills disguised as concern. HB454 does not care about our fellow Ohioans and their families. HB454 is a hateful and mean spirited. The 23 Republicans that wrote this are transphobic and hurtful people. Hopefully the 23 Republicans that wrote it can get the care they need to stop hurting themselves and thus stop writing bills like HB454 that seek only to hurt others. Again, health care is a basic human need. That includes mental health care too. Please do not support bills like these that seek to remove a persons health care.

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