

## David Iosue

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.

I am a 63 year old Cis-Gender male. I have had the honor and joy to be associated with some 30 Trans Women and 10 Trans men. These are people whom I know in real life and some who I have befriended on Facebook and on Twitter. I have read scientific literature and had discussions with knowledgeable doctors and psychiatrists who have worked with transgender people. The reality of being transgender is this: They are born that way. There is clear evidence, dating back to the early 1930s which proves that transgender people have differences in hormone receptors in the brain that are activated during the gestation period, while they are in utero. These differences, paired with the fact that the brain and genitalia develop at different times during fetal growth are the key to understanding the reality of trans people. They are not a perversion, fetish, kink, spectacle or curiosity to be mocked. They ARE HUMAN BEINGS. They deserve the respect, love and kindness due to anyone. The truth is that most/many DO have Gender Dysphoria. This is not always the case. Those who do sometimes commit suicide. Many try self-mutilation and permanently disfigure their genitalia. Most are shunned by family and friends, as well as employers and landlords. For what reason? A CONDITION OF BIRTH. Why is this allowable? Why are bigotry, denial of Science, fear and ignorant people who claim to know about Biology the reasons that these people cannot get proper care and fairness?

I love a 52 year-old woman who calls me 'Uncle Dave'. She is a full post-op Trans Woman. She is both beautiful and extraordinarily intelligent. She has served our country, in the Air Force, and as a local police officer, from a South-Western state. She has explained her whole life story to me and given me insight into what she felt growing up, and during and after her transition. She absolutely HAD to transition. Her Psychiatrist, Physician, Endocrinologist, and all other medical staff were behind her on this necessity. They know more about her than bigoted politicians do. I am good friends with a young Trans Man, whom I met while he was forced to live as a young woman. As that person, he was a fine Trumpet player. I got to know the person. He even started working at my place of employment. He shared his whole transition with me, including details of surgeries and hormone treatments. I met his parents. They were behind him 100% in his transition. They were college-educated individuals themselves. I got this young man a job delivering auto parts with a local chain. He fits in well with all the other men. Finally, another of my friends is a U.S. Army Ranger veteran. She is also a full post-op Trans Woman. Her military job was to 'Harass the enemy, as a sniper, and play

cat-and-mouse' to destroy the enemy's ability to attack our troops. This was in 'The Sand Box'. I will not say which mission. She has TBI and PTSD, as a result of her service. Her revelation to me was that many Trans-Folks join the military to 'Man-Up, or die trying.' This goes for Trans Men, as well as Trans-Women. She now assists other Trans Girls in organizing their Gender Confirming Surgeries, at a local medical establishment. I communicate with many Trans Women and Trans Men, from all over the world. They fear the Cis-gendered population, because of the ignorance and hatred being thrust upon them. They are being harassed, killed, denied medical treatment and have lie after lie piled upon their reputations. This must stop. They are WHO and HOW they say they are. They are BORN TO BE TRANS. It is most certainly NOT A CHOICE, 'FEELING' OR 'CHILDISH WHIM'. Some will commit suicide, to escape our horrible treatment. Most will at least socially transition, often with proper Hormone Replacement Therapies. Hopefully, many will medically transition. Several Trans Women have invited me to join Social Media groups where they discuss what their lives are like, what surgeries they've had and how their friends and co-workers treat them. Same with my Trans Men friends. I was involved in a calendar project featuring all Trans-Folks. I support several Trans-Owned businesses and authors. One Trans Woman friend and I have stopped another from committing suicide and gone visiting, to help her feel wanted and loved. I text and call my chosen family members here mentioned, many times a week. It is not labor, but there is love, effort and enjoyment in doing this. Our Ohio Legislation must not enact laws the injure my chosen family members who are Trans. I will do everything in my power to defend them, support them and show them love and understanding. Our lawmakers must stop the hatred and misinformation. Do NOT enact any Anti-Trans Legislation. Your false biological data that you are using has been created by hate groups and spoon-fed to you. You know this. You are perpetuating hate, lies and pseudoscience. This must stop.

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