

Zoe Jane Halo

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 literally moved to Ohio from Arkansas to receive gender affirming medical care. I have encouraged others to do the same. There is nothing immoral or illegal about the providing of gender affirming care as long as it is done so ethically and consensually. Creating barriers to this life saving practice of medicine is immoral and ought to be illegal.

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