

## **Amy Fisher**

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.

My child was suicidal for a good part of her childhood. She was in weekly counseling and on multiple medications, but it didn't help. After she came out as being transgender, she was then properly diagnosed with gender dysphoria and given the proper medication - hormone therapy. Being her true self and receiving the proper medication and diagnosis saved her life. She now lives a happy and healthy life. Without coverage by insurance I wouldn't be able to afford her counselor or her medications. These things saved her life.

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