

Corie Miller

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 the mother of a 15 year old non-binary child. It is imperative that minors are allowed to receive medical treatment for whatever mental and physical needs they have. It is neither the right nor the duty of government officials to make these decisions. These medical decisions belong to the child, the parents and the medical professionals. This act will uphold the already damaging bias and hate towards the trans-gender community. Regardless of anyone's beliefs, trans-gender people ARE PEOPLE and deserve access to the same, appropriate medical care as any other human being. It is absurd to me that I am actually writing this letter begging you not to take away medical rights to human beings. My child attempted to take their life when they were 12 years old. If my child didn't have access to the doctors, therapists and medication they needed I truly believe they would have made more suicide attempts and possibly been successful. The decisions my family has made for my child's treatment have involved time, research and education. We understand these decisions have life-altering changes and that some are irreversible. We did not take any of it lightly. We did not rush into any procedures or changes. If this act passes we will see an increase in suicide and self-harm among Ohio minors.

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