

Nicole LaSelle

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.

As a therapist who has worked in schools, community agencies, and now a private practice, this would increase minor's mental health issues and prevent them from seeking services due to lack of confidentiality.

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