

**Malia Schram**

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 genderqueer medical student in Ohio, training to become a family medicine physician. My career will be dedicated to providing comprehensive, affirming care to the LGBTQ+ community.

I wept when I read this bill. It uses medical terminology to violate Ohioans. It pretends to be in favor of trans youth, but makes life saving care impossible. It breaks the sacred relationship between physician and patient, the trust to provide evidence based medicine. This bill states its evidence based, but without evidence. And most terrifyingly, this bill will kill. It will kill our trans youth. Directly. Living in Ohio as a visible trans person has not been easy, even with the skeleton support currently provided. I am grateful to be a part of a community that loves me as my authentic self and I am freely supported. But that will not be the case for thousands. Thousands of trans youth. The Cincinnati Children's hospital has over 2,000 active patients that rely on affirming care. Our trans youth are killed by our society's hatred and this bill formalizes that hatred. If I were once again 16, I would be in crisis right now, finding out my rights were being stripped, that the few dedicated professionals could be persecuted for doing the evidence based, supported, and correct care.

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