

August Seymour

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.

The inability to adequately transition in my youth nearly ruined my life and ended it. It was cruel and torturous to live day in and out knowing what I needed but unable to ever get relief. Ohio trans youth deserve the chance to pursue life, liberty and happiness.

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