

Amy Apgar

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Amy. I am a queer woman born and raised in Ohio. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 454, preventing transgender youth from receiving proper medical care. Having been a queer youth myself, I know not only that queer and trans kids exist, that they know who they are better than any of us do, and that we should trust them and their families to lead on how to best support them - this means Ohio lawmakers have absolutely no business legislating lifesaving medical interventions. Now as an adult working as an advocate for survivors of violence, I know that supportive and affirming medical care that centers the needs of the affective population is the way to reduce trauma and violence. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this dangerous bill that will only lead to further harm and violence against our vulnerable trans youth. We must protect them at all costs. Trans children have the right to medical care just as any other child does. Vote NO on this discriminatory, bigoted and harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.