

HB0691_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0691 – FAVORABLE

Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0691, Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment

Throughout the country we see jurisdictions rushing to ban gender affirming care for their residents. This bill says that Maryland will follow the science of this treatment and protect patients and doctors from assisting in prosecutions of those individuals by anyone opposed to humane and medically necessary treatments for gender dysphoria.

USA Today printed an article on the importance of gender affirming care. “Many leading medical organizations, including the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [American Medical Association](#), [the Endocrine Society](#) and [the American Psychiatric Association](#), support offering gender-affirming care.”¹

The Columbia University Department of Psychiatry declares that “gender affirming care saves lives”.² This bill recognizes these medical opinions and ratifies Maryland will take a scientific and moral and ethical approach to gender care. Maryland can be a beacon of hope and sanity in a country where cruelty and political interference are putting their citizen’s lives in danger.

I urge this bill’s passage as a statement of the values of Maryland towards medical care without regard to religious or political interference.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0691.

¹ <https://www.today.com/health/health/why-is-gender-affirming-care-important-rcna35957>

² <https://www.columbiapsychiatry.org/news/gender-affirming-care-saves-lives>