



**Senate Bill 119 / House Bill 691**  
**Legally Protected Health Care – Gender–Affirming Treatment**  
**Position: FAV**

To Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrea Speedie. I'm a Family Medicine Physician, and I've been providing Gender Affirming Care (GAC) for thirteen years. I am also a member of the largest healthcare workers union in the country, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. SB119/HB691 is essential for protecting healthcare workers like me. I strongly urge a **favorable** report on this bill.

With states like West Virginia, Florida, Texas, and over a dozen others seeking to criminalize healthcare workers for providing GAC in other states, I no longer feel safe as a healthcare provider. At the clinic where I work, I see an influx of patients who live in Pennsylvania and West Virginia commuting to Maryland for GAC. I provide them with the high-quality care they deserve, but it is causing me a lot of stress knowing that I am not legally protected even though I am following the Standard of Care.

It's not necessary for legislatures to "understand" the care that we give, to understand how providing for someone's mental and physical health and offering them a pathway to reconciling their identities, can save their lives. We are the same people you trust with your needs, your children's, your parents'. Trust that the care we provide to transgender people is critical to their wellbeing and long-term health outcomes and that the decisions we make, like all healthcare decisions, are best made between the provider and patient—without interference from states seeking to criminalize and politicize life-saving healthcare.

I'm also concerned that without the shielding protections of SB119/HB691, general practitioners may have to make the impossible decision to either A) continue providing GAC while risking criminal penalties and their medical licenses, or B) cease to provide GAC entirely so they can continue to provide healthcare to their other patients without worry. Legislators, please do not force us to make that choice. Vote YES on SB119/HB691. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Speedie  
speedieandrea@gmail.com