

Chair Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
and Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 21, 2024

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

My name is Dan Reed, I live in District 20, and I identify as non-binary. I'm writing to support **House Bill 691, Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment**.

This bill will add gender-affirming health care to Maryland's definition of "legally protected healthcare." In doing so, House Bill 691 ensures that anyone seeking gender-affirming care—or any healthcare provider delivering it—would be protected from out-of-state litigation.

Gender-affirming care saves lives. It's recognized by every major medical association as necessary healthcare. There are a lot of trans people in my life who simply would not be here today without treatments like hormone therapy. Now, as states surrounding Maryland—including Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania—have either banned or are considering bans on this care, people are literally fleeing to our state. In doing so, they also risk prosecution from those states.

Maryland has already taken a brave stand by adding abortion to legally protected healthcare, ensuring that anyone trying to access reproductive care can safely do so here. It's time to extend those same protections to gender-affirming care. This is a small fix that will help make Maryland a welcoming, safe place for everyone.

I urge the Health and Government Operations Committee to give House Bill 691 a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and "R".

Dan Reed (they/them)  
District 20 Resident  
Silver Spring, MD