



# Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ [mota-members.com](http://mota-members.com)

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 691

**Title:** Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment

**Hearing Date:** February 21, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 691 – Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment*. This bill would add gender-affirming treatment to the definition of "legally protected health care."

This bill would now include gender affirming treatment as a legally protected health care which would protect Maryland providers and patients from out-of-state actions, such as criminal or civil investigations. For licensed practitioners, the bill also prohibits health occupation boards from disciplining a licensee because an out-of-state board disciplined the provider for the provision of gender-affirming health services that would have been legal in the State of Maryland. This provision is necessary to protect the licenses of occupational therapists and other health professionals who hold licenses in other states. The bill also prohibits malpractice insurance companies from raising Maryland rates if a health care practitioner has been disciplined for providing legally protected care.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at [mpaddy@policypartners.net](mailto:mpaddy@policypartners.net).