

House Bill 691 - FAVORABLE
Health and Government Operations Committee

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee;

Please give House Bill 691, regarding gender affirming treatment, a Favorable report.

Gender affirming care saves lives. That's not hyperbole; there's a significant amount of research about how mental health improves when transgender people can access gender affirming healthcare. Anyone who cares about others, anyone who cares about transgender people, anyone who's against suicide, and anyone who considers themselves prolife should easily agree that House Bill 691 is an important piece of legislation.

Unfortunately, there are increasing numbers of states where the legislators don't care about the well-being of transgender people. They'd rather see transgender people suffer, and even die, than allow them to get the treatment that would make them, literally, happier. The same people who claim that they support parents' rights are stripping the rights of the parents to get their trans children medically necessary healthcare. Imagine being trapped in a place where your representatives wanted your child to die because they were trans.

I believe that Marylanders are different. We care about people in our own state, and we care about people throughout the country. Maybe it's because so many people from all over the country come here as tourists, for jobs, and for the military. While many transgender people are leaving hostile states so that they can survive, not everyone has the ability to move. It is our moral duty to help them survive if we can. I know there are people who wouldn't give a bottle of water to someone dying of thirst, but I believe that we're better than that. Please enable people to safely come to Maryland for gender-affirming healthcare by giving House Bill 691 a Favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD