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CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Cecil County Administration Building 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk The Honorable Bonnie Cullison Health and Government Operations Committee Room 241 House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB0691 - Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment Letter of Opposition

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously oppose HB0691 Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled on February 21, 2024.

It is our understanding that this legislation is altering the definition of "legally protected health care" to include certain gender-affirming treatment, including medications and supplies, for the purposes of certain provisions of law that prohibit health occupations disciplinary actions and certain actions in criminal and civil proceedings and the use of certain resources in furtherance of certain investigations and proceedings related to legally protected health care.

Supporting the rights of parents in the medical care of a minor is of the upmost importance to all our citizens and this bill will have an adverse impact on these rights. Cecil County strongly opposes this legislation.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully request that the Health and Government Operations Committee send an unfavorable report on HB0691. respectfully request that the Judiciary Committee send a favorable report on HB 0597.

Sincerely,

Danielle Hornberger County Executive

President of County Council

Jackie Gregory