

Maryland General Assembly  
House of Delegate  
Health and government operations Committee

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to add my favorable support for HB0691, to Legally Protect Health Care – Gender-Affirming Treatment. As a life-long Maryland resident, this is the type of legislation that keeps me loyal to this state, and exemplifies why Maryland is a leader in the country regarding civil and human rights. While watching the Senate hearing regarding this bill, I was thrilled to see the level of support it has and the many medical professionals who are backing it. And while I know there will always be dissent from some regarding any bill presented, I was saddened by the arguments made from the unfavorable witnesses. Their lack of education about the scope of the bill, and their fear-mongering language disheartened me, and I want to do everything I can to assure the Maryland lawmakers that their opinions (for they are not based in factual reality) are not the majority of the word for the people of Maryland.

I have a son who is transgender, and have worked with and continue to work with people who are trans, gender-fluid, and are members of the LGBTQIA+ community. I have witnessed, first-hand, the incalculable positive effects gender-affirming care provides for people. I have seen people go from near suicidal to joyful and happy, simply because their perception of themselves and their bodies were respected, and they were given the treatments and procedures which allowed them to feel safe, comfortable, and right in their own skin. This care is necessary for so many of our friends and neighbors, many of whom are only coming to the realization that they are no longer held to the constraints of a society which is quickly becoming outdated.

The arguments against this bill are ones born from many places - fear, hatred, bigotry, and a general sense of offense at people who would dare to choose a lifestyle different from another's. We must be very clear – gender-affirming care does nothing to harm people, especially those uninvolved in the process. This bill does not allow for uncontrolled, unrestrained medical practices performed on adults or children who have nothing to say and no control of the situation, as the bill's opponents would lead you to believe. This bill will do nothing but save lives, both of those living within Maryland who need help, and those coming here because they know this state is a place of kindness and acceptance.

Please vote in favor of HB0691 and protect those who deserve protection.

Thank you,

Nicholas Allen  
Silver Spring, Maryland