



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 691 – Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment

Hearing Date: February 21, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 691 – Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment*. This bill makes gender-affirming treatment a form of legally protected healthcare. By doing so, this bill would protect individuals receiving gender affirming care in Maryland, their families, and their Maryland providers. Twenty-two states have banned gender-affirming care for minors. These bans put families in the impossible situation of ending life-saving treatment for their children or risk traveling out-of-state to places like Maryland.

HB 691 ensures that Maryland providers can continue to provide gender affirming care to their patients. The bill would protect their Maryland licenses, even if they are disciplined in a board in another state, just as long as they were practicing within the Maryland standard of care. We do not believe that the practice of Maryland providers should be compromised by bans of medically necessary care in other states.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.