

**House Bill 691 - FAVORABLE**  
**Health and Government Operations Committee**

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

We, the Steering Committee members of One Pasadena, ask that you give House Bill 691 a favorable report.

One Pasadena is a community group that is working to change the culture of bigotry that Pasadena, Maryland is known for. We are dedicated to making our community a safer and more inclusive place, and are writing this testimony because we believe that every community in this country should be safe and inclusive.

Currently, an overwhelming number of states have criminalized or severely limited gender-affirming healthcare for transgender people. Study after study has shown that gender-affirming healthcare saves lives by reducing depression and suicidality. Study after study has also shown that gender-affirming healthcare is safe, including for youth.

Well-regarded healthcare groups, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the Endocrine Society, support the availability of gender-affirming healthcare. Legislators that ban gender-affirming healthcare are knowingly ignoring the experts in healthcare.

Tens of thousands of youth are in danger because they can no longer access gender-affirming healthcare in their states. We can save the lives of many of them by making it safe for them and their families to obtain such healthcare in Maryland. We can save their futures by preventing other states from using us to punish them for getting healthcare here.

We urge you to give House Bill 691 a Favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
The One Pasadena Steering Committee  
Pasadena, MD