

Dear State of Maryland Legislators,

Thank you for your service. I am writing to submit testimony and to express my full, unequivocal support for the bills protecting gender-affirming care in Maryland, Bills: HB691 (and SB119). I and my family fully support legally protected healthcare and gender affirming treatment as outlined in HB691 (and SB119) and its protections:

- Shielding consumers, providers, and support individuals from extradition for gender-affirming care provided in Maryland.
- Prohibiting Maryland agencies and law enforcement from assisting with out-of-state investigations of gender -affirming care legally protected in Maryland.
- Prohibiting occupational boards from disciplining a licensed or certified individual over out-of-state complaints for gender-affirming care.

Gender affirming care is recognized as medically necessary healthcare by every major medical association, including the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We have daughter who is transgender. She came out at age 13 and is now age 19. It is a known fact that nearly 40-50% of transgender individuals and anyone experiencing gender dysphoria is at risk of suicide or self-harm. Our daughter has been very much at risk as a result of her gender dysphoria. The most important thing we could do as her parents was to support her, affirm her, accept her, and to make sure she was in an accepting community that protects her rights.

A vital part of that support is gender affirming medical care which has allowed her to live and experience her gender identity. It has also significantly mitigated the risk of self-harm.

As a result of this healthcare and other important affirmations, she has been a happier, thriving individual who adds value to all she does in school, extracurricular activities, her friend groups, family life, and her community.

Gender-affirming care has truly saved our daughter's life and allowed her to live her life as an accepted member of the community. We want her and all citizens to have their rights protected when it comes to receiving medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare. We ask our state to provide this sanctuary to protect citizens of those states who are violating those people's rights with un-Constitutional and un-American bans on this healthcare.

Thank you for your work to protect Maryland transgender citizens and those out of state citizens who seek gender affirming care in Maryland.

Greg Ackerman

Timonium, MD

Maryland Legislative District: 42B