



# Maryland State Perfusion Society

**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

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The Maryland State Perfusion Society (MSPS) supports House Bill 691 – Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment. The bill This bill would add gender-affirming treatment to the definition of "legally protected health care."

MSPS is a non-profit society of licensed perfusionists who specialize in operating the heart-lung machine during open-heart surgeries, and several other lifesaving surgeries and procedures; e.g, Liver transplantation, ExVivo Organ Perfusion, Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy, etc. Perfusionist maintain viability at the cellular level keeping tissue, organs and entire patients alive by means of perfusion circuitry. This is performed by the circulation of blood and oxygen in careful combination with medications to the patient's tissue beds while the heart is temporarily stopped or bypassed. Perfusionists are trained to monitor the patient's vitals and laboratory tests, making adjustments to the heart-lung machine as needed to ensure all patient tissues are perfused while undergoing heart/lung bypass surgery, ExtraCorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO, or life support for end stage ARDS and critically ill COVID patients).

This bill would now include gender affirming treatment as a legally protected health care which would protect Maryland providers and patients from out-of-state actions, such as criminal or civil investigations. For licensed practitioners, the bill also prohibits health occupation boards from disciplining a licensee because an out-of-state board disciplined the provider for the provision of gender-affirming health services that would have been legal in the State of Maryland. This provision is necessary to protect the licenses of perfusionists and other health professionals who hold licenses in other states. The bill also prohibits malpractice insurance companies from raising Maryland rates if a health care practitioner has been disciplined for providing legally protected care.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at [mpaddy@policypartners.net](mailto:mpaddy@policypartners.net).