

House Bill 691
Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment
February 21, 2024
Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Mary Cullen. I am a resident of District 45. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB691, Legally Protected Healthcare - Gender-Affirming Treatment, which would add gender-affirming care to the definition of legally protected healthcare in Maryland.

I am a mother of a transgender woman, Olivia, who was born and raised in Baltimore. She came out to us as a trans woman at the age of 19 though she knew before that. Before coming to terms with her gender identity, she had a rough couple of years. Her last two years of high school were miserable for her and for us. Once she embraced her gender identity and was able to be her authentic self, she has been a much happier person emotionally.

I can't imagine where my daughter would be if she had been denied care for any reason as she transitioned. She received healthcare at Chase Brexton. The healthcare she received there enabled her to be a healthy trans adult both physically and mentally.

Please ensure that trans healthcare professionals in the state of Maryland will not be charged with wrongdoing from out of state entities. Please ensure that those who come to Maryland to receive healthcare do not have to worry that their healthcare records will be sent out of state for the purposes of punishing trans individuals and their healthcare providers. Please ensure that the Executive Order signed by Governor Moore last year is legislated into law so that trans healthcare is legally protected.

Trans healthcare is lifesaving. Please keep Maryland a safe haven for transgender people by defining trans healthcare as legally protected under our laws.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB691.