

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 Kristen Monthei and I am a resident of District 7. 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 the mother of a beautiful and vibrant trans-female 19 year old daughter. I have watched her struggle with severe gender dysphoria which has led to feelings of low self-worth, anxiety, disassociation, suicidal ideation and depressive symptoms. Although we have always been an extremely supportive family, it wasn't until she started hormone therapy that we began to see how much of a difference it made in her confidence and self-perception. I believe it saved her life.

This bill should be passed so that anyone needing gender affirming care can be protected and have the opportunity to live a safe, active, happy and healthy life. It is also important to protect our medical professionals who provide this care.

Please support and protect this vulnerable community and give them the chance to live with the authenticity and dignity they deserve. I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB691.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristen Monthei
407 Montemar Ave
Catonsville, MD 21228