

Good Day Legislators,

As a transgender Maryland resident, I am writing today to **support** the Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act of 2022). I believe that by helping transgender persons currently on Medicaid continue the medical portion of their transition, we can improve the quality of life for a group of disadvantaged residents who may otherwise not be able to adequately assimilate as their true gender.

It's hard to describe to someone who has never experience gender dysphoria what it means to look at yourself and think *I look good, presentable, myself* and have the slightest sideways glance of a reflective surface unravel all those positive things you might have felt just a moment ago. To ask yourself daily if people are just going along with your name and pronouns; humoring you because it's the trendy thing to do. Surgery doesn't fix this feeling entirely, but it goes a long, long way to helping many trans people find acceptance within and without.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Fiona Leathers

Owings Mills, Maryland