

**Testimony in Support of SB 682**  
Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming  
Treatment Trans Health Equity Act of 2022  
Senate Finance Committee  
February 22, 2022

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Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. John Hebb. I graduated from University of Maryland School of law in 2013 with a degree in healthcare law and policy. I also graduated from Georgetown Medical school in 2021. In my career, I have advocated for various queer health policy issues. However, this bill is one of the more important endeavors I have supported.

SB 682 is important because transgender people deserve access to healthcare. Maryland is denying medical necessary care to trans people. Without adequate medical care, trans Marylanders are exposed to job and housing discrimination, harassment, and violence. This problem is unacceptable and preventable.

I, personally, have witnessed first-hand this discrimination. I am currently a first-year surgical resident at Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore. We assist in Vaginoplasty procedures. Some of our trans patients get denied by healthcare insurance and must pay out of pocket, sadly. However, those that can pay for the procedure have vast improvement in their lives. The number one medical procedure that improves quality of life is gender affirmation services.

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of Senate Bill 682. For the above-mentioned reasons, I strongly urge you to support SB 682.

Thank you for your consideration,



Dr. John Hopewell Hebb, III