

SUPPORT SB 682  
Senate Finance Committee  
February 22, 2022  
Testimony of Taro J. Adachi, M.D.

Frederick Ob/Gyn  
Frederick, Mt. Airy, and Urbana Maryland  
Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of Senate Bill 682.

I am an Ob/Gyn who has been in practice in Baltimore City since 1993 in private practice for 20 years, including ten years with Chase Brexton, and the past six as a full time faculty member at Sinai Hospital as part of their residency training program. I have recently moved further west to retire from teaching back into private practice. Throughout my career I have provided direct care for people in the LGBTQ community. The access to care should be supported for the health of our whole community.

I am writing today to express my support for the Gender-Affirming Treatment/Trans Health Equity Act of 2022 as a comprehensive, thoughtful, cost-neutral proposal to improve the health and safety of the small group of 2,000 transgender Marylanders who are enrolled in Medicaid.

This bill ensures Maryland Medicaid provides medically necessary care based on up-to-date standards in line with other state and private insurance providers. As an office based and surgical care giver, I've seen gender-affirming care dramatically improve patients' mental health and wellbeing, reducing long-term physical and mental health complications.

In particular, I appreciate how the bill seeks to resolve insurance gaps in gender-affirming care, such as electrolysis accompanying planned genital surgeries and speech language or "voice therapy" which has potential to promote safety from discrimination and violence which worsen mental health. These services are federally reimbursable by licensed providers, and as medical providers to Medicaid-insured patients, we can help patients access them safely and judiciously.

Please, I urge you to support SB 682 to make this medically necessary and life-saving care accessible for low-income Marylanders on Medicaid, just as it is under many private insurance plans.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Taro J. Adachi  
4842 Buffalo Road  
Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771