



TESTIMONY FOR SB0682

Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act of 2022)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Washington

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0682 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill would help trans individuals to convert to their correct gender by requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to cover gender-affirming treatments that are medically necessary and proscribed in accordance with the current clinical standards of care. The program may not deny coverage by saying that these treatments are cosmetic; or by limiting the treatments; or having a separate health care provider approve them.

Our members feel that it is important to live comfortably in your own skin, and in order to live a healthy and productive life, these treatments are essential for trans individuals. Their concerns are not superficial, and they should not be ignored or denied as such.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.