

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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For identification purposes only: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Esperanza Center Health Clinic

Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee,

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

SB 682 is important because my transgender patients are suffering without recourse. I am a primary care doctor, and gender-affirming care is primary in so many ways – among them, primary to my patients' well-being and ability to exist in the world on their own terms. This bill costs nothing to Marylanders, as gender-affirming care is reimbursable. It merely asks that transgender people on Medicaid be treated like anyone else.

Maryland is falling behind other states and denying gender-affirming care to Medicaid patients. As a result, my patients' mental health is suffering. They are ending up in the emergency room, or with worse fates. Why should the state get between patients and their doctors?

I want to see my transgender patients get the care they need, no matter who they are. You can help by passing this bill. I strongly urge you to support SB 682.

Thank you for your consideration,
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