



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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To the Leaders of the General Assembly of Maryland,

I am writing in favor of passing **HBO746 and SBO682, Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act of 2022).**

I am a Lutheran pastor in Baltimore, many of whose congregants are transgender. Working with these congregants, I see how clearly God is present in their lives, and how they thrive when they have access to gender-affirming care.

All of God's children deserve medical care that affirms their identity, and enables them to thrive in life. In addition, research shows that gender affirming care prevents a multitude of health and psychological issues, such as depression, anxiety, suicide, addiction, and avoidance of healthcare. And so I stand in support of these bills that will save the lives of many trans individuals.

Signed,

Pastor Emily Scott