

SUPPORT SB 682

Senate Finance Committee

February 22, 2022

Testimony of Jeremy Miller, resident physician (Rosedale, MD)

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 682 as a resident physician who cares for transgender patients in Rosedale, MD.

This bill will bring Maryland Medicaid in line with other state and private insurance providers to provide medically necessary care based on up-to-date standards. As a resident physician, we have regular teaching and precepting by attending physicians on appropriate use of health care services, including referrals to specialists, imaging, and procedures. When Maryland Medicaid modifies the exclusion criteria for gender-affirming care, I am confident that as medical doctors we can help our Medicaid-insured patients access these services safely and judiciously.

As you can imagine, safety and security are the underpinnings of building a healthy life that includes preventive health care, good nutrition and exercise, and optimized physical and mental wellness which reduce overall morbidity and health care costs. Prior to becoming a doctor, I was a case manager and counselor who worked with patients on Massachusetts Medicaid "MassHealth". Having improved access to gender-affirming care made a world of difference for my low-income transgender patients with regards to safety from discrimination and improvement of mental and physical health.

The small group of 2,000 transgender Maryland residents on Medicaid deserve this same opportunity for health care coverage as provided by other state Medicaid plans and Maryland private insurance. Please support SB 682 to make medically necessary and life-saving care accessible for low-income Marylanders on Medicaid.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this important issue,

Jeremy Miller

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