

**February 22, 2022**

**Statement on Senate Bill 682**  
**Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Gender-Affirming Treatment**  
**(Trans Health Equity Act of 2022)**  
**Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: Support**

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1300 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support Senate Bill 682 to further the cause of equity in access to health care and treatment for all Marylanders.

Senate Bill 682 would allow Medicaid-eligible transgender persons to receive coverage for several gender-affirming medical procedures. Maryland is using 20-year-old guidelines for the needs of Maryland's trans community – Other states are already providing more robust care under Medicaid.

These services are federally reimbursable and will be used by only a small portion of our population.

Maryland will save on down-stream costs from long-term physical and mental health complications, and reduce the costs incurred from housing and employment discrimination.

Gender-affirming care has been shown to dramatically increase mental health and wellbeing, and multiple major medical associations support comprehensive care for the trans community including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics.

**We urge you to give Senate Bill 682 a favorable report.**