

HB1358_SHARPE_FAV

Dear Delegates,

I support this bill because I believe that Maryland should commit to not discriminating against a person based on medical information. Maryland is an inclusive state that respects individual autonomy. This bill guards a person's self-determination from negatively impacting school or work opportunities.

A person's medical decisions are appropriately the concern of that person and that person's doctor.

There is really only one way to protect a person from discrimination based on this private information, and that is to afford people the right to maintain that information privately.

There is not a reason why it should be known. My medical information has always been the concern of me and my doctor.

It is worrying to me that this issue is even coming up, that a law be needed to keep individuals safe from having their information affect their ability to work or go to school or have access to services. The importance of autonomy regarding medical care and privacy about that care should be self evident.

In my family, my kids are getting ready for college applications and first jobs; out on their own for the first time. It is an exciting, time of opportunity and growth. What I want for them is all avenues be unlimited, all possibilities possible. Not that their medical choices become a barrier or exclude them from some options.

I want my family to be allowed to reserve information about themselves that would not otherwise affect their eligibility. We often see on official documents a statement that we don't discriminate against anyone based on a myriad of factors. For the sake of affirming our values of equality and nondiscrimination, medical decisions should be another protected factor.