## **Testimony in Support of HB 746**

Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment Trans Health Equity Act of 2022 Health and Government Operations Committee March 2, 2022

Seema Shah, MD Baltimore, Maryland Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of House Bill 746.

At Planned Parenthood of Maryland, we provide gender affirming hormone therapy as well as other care coordination for gender affirming treatments.

I believe that HB 746 is important, because it ensures Medicaid coverage for treatment options deemed medically necessary by health care professionals for transgender and nonbinary patients based on up-to-date standards. Presently, this is not the case, and patients who could benefit from certain treatments are not getting the coverage for it. For example, I have numerous patients where laser or electrolysis hair removal is medically indicated for their medical transition, but it is not covered by Medicaid, and they are not able to afford the cost.

In summary, I strongly urge you to support HB 746 and move Maryland to join other states that are providing Medicaid coverage for up-to-date care.

Thank you for your consideration,

Seema Shah, MD

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