## **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

Zackary Berger, MD, PhD, FACP
Baltimore, Maryland
<u>For identification purposes only</u>: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, and Esperanza Clinic Health Center

Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee,

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

I believe that HB 746 is important because my transgender patients have been waiting too long for equitable treatment. This lack of equity has led to real harms, both physical and mental, and it is a mark of shame on our state that we are behind the rest of the nation in assuring gender affirming treatment. As we struggle against a rising tide of transphobia which hurts transgender people and those who care about their humanity, let us provide the care that they all deserve.

Please do what you can to support this community, for the sake of my patients. I strongly urge you to support HB 746.

Thank you for your consideration,

Zackary Berger, MD, PhD, FACP 2736 N Calvert St Baltimore, MD 21218