

Testimony in Support of SB 682
Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment
Trans Health Equity Act of 2022
House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 24, 2022

H. Victoria Hedian
Baltimore, Maryland

Chair Pendergrass and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of Senate Bill 682.

I am a native Maryland resident, a graduate of our University of Maryland School of Law, and a retired attorney who practiced law for 35 years in Maryland. My family in Baltimore dates back to the 1840s.

I believe that SB 682 is important because trans people are all around us, in every community and in far greater numbers than many realize, and they need gender-affirming health care. Among my own relatives there are two trans or nonbinary people in a group of fewer than 30. Among my friends, at least two have nonbinary grandchildren.

Members of this community face barriers because some people do not realize how common this is, and how difficult it can be to be in a body that feels wrong. Gender-affirming medical care can address this medical condition, but it is often seen as cosmetic or optional, when in fact it is an absolute necessity. Passing this bill would expand the coverage of gender-affirming medical care for Maryland Medicaid recipients. It would make a big difference in the lives of these Marylanders.

Please do what you can to support this community and see that gender-affirming care is available to all who need it.

I strongly urge you to support SB 682.

Thank you for your consideration.

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