



Maryland Community Health System

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| Committee: | House Health and Government Operations Committee |
| Bill: | House Bill 746 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act of 2022) |
| Hearing Date: | March 2, 2022 |
| Position: | Support |

Maryland Community Health System strongly supports *House Bill 746 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act of 2022)*. The bill ensures that Medicaid all medically necessary gender-affirming care.

Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers committed to providing services to the underserved, which includes individuals who need gender-affirming care. Maryland Medicaid does currently cover gender-affirming care but many services are excluded.ⁱ The justification for these exclusions is often that they excluded services are “cosmetic.” However, there is a growing recognition in the medical community that often the “demarcation between ‘necessity’ and ‘cosmetic’ in transgender...is in direct opposition to the scientific community’s understanding of gender dysphoria and professional guidelines for transgender health.”ⁱⁱ This bill recognizes that for many transgender patients certain services that are traditionally considered “cosmetic” such as hair alterations or facial surgery are actually medically necessary in order to address gender dysphoria. Passing SB 682 will ensure that Maryland Medicaid’s coverage of gender-affirming care reflects current best practices for caring for transgender patients.

We ask for a favorable report, and we stand ready to assist the Committee in every way possible in this endeavor. If we can be helpful in any way, please let us know by contacting Scott at stiffin@policypartners.net.

ⁱ https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/mcoupsdates/documents/pt_37_16.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6549509/#R1>