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Health and Government
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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**Testimony in Support of
House Bill 746: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment
(Trans Health Equity Act of 2022)
March 2nd, 2022**

Madam Chair Pendergrass and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 746: Maryland Medical Assistance Programs - Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act of 2022)**. This bill will modernize coverage for dealing with gender dysphoria.

Ultimately, this bill will require MD Medicaid to cover an array of gender-affirming treatment in a non-discriminatory way to deal with gender dysphoria. As noted in the fiscal note, I am talking about ‘medically necessary treatment consistent with current clinical standards of care prescribed by a licensed health care provider for the treatment of a condition related to the individual’s gender identity.’ Key to this definition, is the idea of ‘medically necessary’ and ‘prescribed by a licensed health care provider’.

This bill is a result of consultation with the MD Department of Health as well as in collaboration with medical professionals at Johns Hopkins Medicine, MedStar Health, Chase Brexton Health Care, and many other medical institutions.

Based on old standards, Maryland denies coverage for 31 gender-affirming procedures, such as hair, voice and facial procedures. By including these procedures, we can improve the standard of care for transgender Marylanders, as some of our neighboring states have already done.

I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 746**. Thank you.