

SB 460 Trans Health Equity Act

Hearing before the Senate Finance Committee

Feb. 28, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

Hello, My name is Michael English, and I am writing to strongly support SB 460, the Trans Health Equity Act, which would require medicaid to cover a wide array of critically important gender affirming care.

While I will be somewhat vague to protect their privacy, something very important to me is trans, and she is fortunate enough to be able to afford multiple treatments that would be covered for those less fortunate under the Trans Health Equity Act. I have seen first hand the good these gender affirming treatments can do, and how much they can change someone's life. Unfortunately, many people, especially those in the trans community, do not have the resources to pay for such care.

This bill will do a tremendous amount of good and, frankly, I was disappointed and disturbed to see the way its predecessor was pulled before a floor vote after clearing committee, in an apparent acquiescence to a veto threat. A lot of trust was lost that day, and it won't come back until the right thing is done. I, frankly, won't be happy until there is a floor vote, and the bill passes, but that can't happen without this initial step.

Governor Hogan is gone, and with him that excuse. People have already waited a year too long. Don't make them wait any longer. Give this bill a favorable report, move it forward out of committee, and make sure it gets a floor vote, and please vote in favor of it when that time comes.

Thank you

Mike English
Downtown Silver Spring