

Senate Bill SB 460
Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment
Trans Health Equity Act
February 28, 2023

Testimony of Eileen Lorenz

Bowie, MD (District 23)

Dear Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB460, the Trans Health Equity Act, which would expand Maryland Medicaid to cover lifesaving gender-affirming care. I am not a medical or mental health expert, but I do know a basic fact that should dictate the future of this bill: trans people are people and should be treated with dignity and respect. My nephew will be 11 this coming April. He is one of the best kids I've ever known. He brings joy to any room he enters and is always beaming with a confidence I wish I had. As he gets older, I fear that his body could become a source of anxiety and insecurity if he does not have access to proper treatment. He deserves every opportunity that the cis population has to feel seen as himself– to have his exterior match his internal identity. I want him to know that the society he lives in values his health and would support his need for gender-affirming medical treatment, should that be his circumstance. There is no reason gender-affirming treatment should be approached any differently than other medical treatments. It has the power to save lives. Our trans friends, family members, and neighbors are all watching this legislative process. This vote can and will tell them whether the state of Maryland prioritizes their livelihood.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB460.

Thank you,

Eileen Lorenz