



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 460

Title: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)

Hearing Date: February 28, 2023

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 460 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)*. The bill would modernize Maryland Medicaid’s coverage of gender-affirming treatment to reflect current best practices.

Maryland Medicaid currently excludes many gender-affirming services from coverage because the services are considered “cosmetic.” There is a growing recognition among experts that these service denials “reflect a long history of labeling medical care for transgender people as unnecessary, unproven, and unworthy of payment[.]”ⁱ This bill recognizes that many services sometimes considered “cosmetic” are medically necessary for transgender patients. In addition to addressing symptoms of gender dysphoria, treatments to align outward appearance with a patient’s gender identity can decrease the risk of experiencing discrimination and violence.ⁱⁱ

By modernizing our state’s Medicaid program, we will ensure that more patients can access all medically necessary gender-affirming care. We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

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

ⁱⁱ https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/NTDS_Report.pdf