



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 460 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)

Hearing Date: February 28, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 460 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)*. The bill ensures that Medicaid covers all medically necessary gender-affirming care.

MNA works to promote healthcare consumer safety, access to care, education, and self-determination, which includes supporting individuals in 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 this bill 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. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

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

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