



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**SB 460**

**DATE: February 28, 2023**

**SPONSOR: Senator M. Washington, et al.**

**ASSIGNED TO: Finance**

**CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey (leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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### **Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)**

Senate Bill 460 expresses the intent of the General Assembly that Maryland Medical Assistance is required to provide gender-affirming treatment to all Medicaid recipients for whom gender-affirming treatment is medically necessary, including transgender, nonbinary, intersex, two spirit, and other gender diverse individuals. Under the bill, Medicaid may not exclude gender-affirming treatment, including revisions to prior gender-affirming treatment, on the basis that the treatment is a cosmetic service. The bill requires annual reporting from Medicaid Managed Care Organizations on location, provider name, and type of gender-affirming treatment provided and from the Maryland Department of Health regarding geographic access to gender-affirming treatment across the State.

Montgomery County joins the American Medical Association<sup>1</sup>, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists<sup>2</sup>, the American Academy of Nursing<sup>3</sup>, the American Psychiatric Association<sup>4</sup>, along with many others across our State and the country in emphasizing the medical necessity of gender-affirming care. Senate Bill 460 will ensure that gender-affirming medical treatments are covered by Medicaid in a manner that is non-discriminatory and meets the critical health needs of approximately 2,000 Medicaid-enrolled transgender Marylanders. As stated by the American Academy of Nursing, removing discrimination from health care for gender diverse people is critical:

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care views access to evidence-based health care as a right and barriers to access as discrimination. Discrimination negatively affects how individuals make decisions about accessing health care, thereby putting them at risk for short- and long-term adverse health outcomes.<sup>5</sup>

Montgomery County respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 460.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://searchf.amaassn.org/letter/documentDownload?uri=%2Funstructured%2Fbinary%2Fletter%2FLETTERS%2F2021-4-26-Bill-McBride-opposing-anti-trans-bills-Final.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2021/03/health-care-for-transgender-and-gender-diverse-individuals>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554\(16\)30120-8/fulltext](https://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554(16)30120-8/fulltext)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/About-APA/Organization-Documents-Policies/Policies/Position-2018-Access-to-Care-for-Transgender-and-Gender-Diverse-Individuals.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554\(16\)30120-8/fulltext](https://www.nursingoutlook.org/article/S0029-6554(16)30120-8/fulltext) (internal citations omitted).