



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQ Affairs**

**TESTIMONY OF JEREMY BROWNING
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, MARYLAND COMMISSION ON LGBTQ AFFAIRS
INFORMATION STATEMENT ON SB0460**

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

SENATE - Finance Committee

The Hon. Melony Griffith, Chair
The Hon. Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair

Good afternoon, Madame Chair and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide informational testimony on SB0460 on behalf of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs. My name is Jeremy Browning (he/him), I am the Administrative Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs.

I would like to commend the members of the General Assembly for their work on behalf of our LGBTQIA+ communities and their families. The efforts to create a Commission and Office to address the needs and issues of the communities are laudable.

The Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs was created by the 2021 Maryland General Assembly to assess challenges facing our LGBTQ community, collect data across state agencies, study and establish best practices for LGBTQ inclusion, and offer testimony on issues concerning LGBTQ persons before legislative and administrative bodies.

Senate bill 460 is a vital step in ensuring that transgender individuals in Maryland have access to the medical care they need. Gender-affirming treatment has a profound impact on the physical and mental well-being of transgender individuals and it is essential that these treatments are provided in a non-discriminatory manner.

The bill prohibits adverse benefit determinations unless a health care provider with experience providing gender-affirming treatment has reviewed and confirmed the

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appropriateness of the determination. Additionally it ensures that the highest quality of care is available and prescribed in accordance with current clinical standards of care for transgender individuals.

With this information, Madame Chair and members of the committee, I conclude my testimony. I am optimistic that the Commission will continue to work hard and have tremendous success in improving the lives of our LGBTQIA+ communities and their families. I look forward to furthering those activities and I would be happy to answer any questions.