



Trans Health Equity Act of 2023  
Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment  
**Position: Favorable with Sponsor Amendments**

Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Health & Government Operations Committee,

My name is Daniel Mendoza, I am a Trans Rights Activist, and a member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the country, with over 10,000 members in Maryland and Washington DC. Our union supports HB283 – the Trans Health Equity Act, and we urge the Committee to issue a **favorable** report, including **sponsor amendments**. This legislation will allow low-income transgender patients to access lifesaving, medically necessary gender affirming healthcare.

HB 283 is important because as a Trans person who had my own gender affirming surgery and care covered by my employer’s coverage, I know many who do not have that luxury. These friends and community members continue to fight for their life saving care to be covered as often times the difference between being able to see yourself reflected back in the mirror or not is life or death. Passing this bill would not only save lives of many Marylanders, but it would also improve that quality of life.

I support Delegate Anne Kaiser’s amendment to require consent from healthcare providers to have our names listed on a public directory of providers who specialize in gender-affirming healthcare, rather than mandating all providers be listed as the current bill draft requires. I urge the Committee to adopt this amendment as it is important for the safety of healthcare workers.

Please vote **YES** on this life saving legislation to expand access to healthcare for transgender Marylanders.

In Unity,

Daniel Mendoza  
Daniel.mendoza@1199.org