



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill number:** SB 460 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)

**Hearing Date:** February 28, 2023

**Position:** Support with Amendments

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 460 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)*. The bill would update coverage policies for gender-affirming care under the Maryland Medicaid Program.

In a position statement, our national organization stated that, “ACNM supports efforts to provide transgender and gender non-binary (TGNB) people with access to safe, comprehensive, culturally-responsive, and respectful health care.”<sup>i</sup> Gender-affirming care is health care, and insurance plans, whether public or private, should provide equitable coverage. Coverage is particularly essential for gender-affirming care, as the TGNB community faces many other challenges, such as employment discrimination, a high risk of violent assault, and high rates of serious behavioral health issues, including suicide. Gender-affirming care is both life-changing and life-saving.

We request consideration of two amendments:

- 1) On page 2 in line 30, insert “OR CERTIFIED” after “LICENSED”.

*Explanation: Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), including nurse-midwives, are certified rather than licensed. APRNs do provide gender-affirming care.*

- 2) On page 4 in lines 31-33 and page 5 in lines 1 through 17, the bill requires the Department of Health to publish a list of practitioners who provide gender-affirming care. We strongly support more resources to connect individuals to gender-affirming care. However, we are very concerned that a listing of practitioners could compromise the safety of gender-affirming practitioners. As a result, some practitioners may be dissuaded from offering gender-affirming care because of the safety risks. We would be pleased to work with

stakeholders and the Department to determine alternative language that supports creating resources for connecting people to gender affirming care.

We ask for a favorable report with the amendments we have suggested. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/00000000326/ACNM--PS--Care%20for%20TGNB%20People-%20Final\\_1.pdf](https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/00000000326/ACNM--PS--Care%20for%20TGNB%20People-%20Final_1.pdf)