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**HB 283**

February 14, 2023

**TO:** Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Interim Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 283 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Kelly, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 283.

HB 283 bill requires the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide medically necessary gender-affirming treatment to individuals enrolled in the program in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner. The treatment must be assessed according to current clinical standards and cannot be denied unless reviewed and confirmed by a healthcare provider with experience in gender-affirming treatment.

Providing access to gender-affirming treatment for individuals is an important step in ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their gender identity, have access to the care they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives. This includes requiring that the gender-affirming treatment be assessed according to nondiscriminatory criteria that are consistent with current clinical standards and prohibiting the program from issuing an adverse benefit determination related to gender-affirming treatment unless a healthcare provider with experience prescribing or delivering gender-affirming treatment has reviewed and confirmed the appropriateness of the determination.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 283.