

House Bill 283
Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment
Trans Health Equity Act
February 14, 2023
Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am Zackary Berger, MD, PhD, a resident of District 43A. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB283, the Trans Health Equity Act, which would expand Maryland Medicaid to cover lifesaving gender-affirming care.

I provide primary care and gender affirming hormone treatment for transgender people in Baltimore. So many people are disappointed in not getting the procedures that will improve their physical and mental health, the treatment that medical professionals recommend for gender dysphoria. When someone's gender identity and their body do not line up (that's what gender dysphoria means), their entire life is out of sync. A full range of gender-affirming procedures, surgeries, and medications is not available to Marylanders on Medicaid. It is inequitable, and insulting to our transgender patients, neighbors, friends, relatives, and loved ones, that such a rich state cannot offer medically indicated treatment even to the small number of transgender people in the state.

I want to look these people in the eye and say that we live in a state that supports transgender people. Now more than ever we need to have our laws align with our values.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB283.