



10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste 910, Columbia, MD 21044. Office 410-992-4258. Fax: 410-992-7732. www.marylandpsychology.org

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President

Rebecca Resnick, PsyD,

President-elect

Brian Corrado, PsyD

Past President

Linda McGhee, PhD, JD

Secretary

Tanya Morrel, PhD

Treasurer

Melinda Capaldi, PsyD

Representatives-at-large

Jessica Rothstein, PsyD

Andrea Chisolm, Ph.D.

Representative to APA Council

Peter Smith, PsyD

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

Diversity

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

Early Career Psychologist

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

Educational Affairs

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

Ethics

Colleen Byrne, PhD

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

Membership

Linda Herbert, PhD

Professional Practice

Karin Cleary, PhD

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, PhD

INTERIM EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR

Thomas Cote, MBA, CAE

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk -Chair
Delegate Ariana B Kelly -Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Late Written Testimony

February 13, 2023

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

Position: Support

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 283 – the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide gender-affirming treatment in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Supporting gender affirming care in a nondiscriminatory manner is, simply put, lifesaving. The attempted suicide rate for transgendered individuals is at an astounding 41% with higher rates for those who have been victims of discrimination. Individuals pursuing gender affirming care should be entitled to care that is assessed and treated according to nondiscriminatory criteria that are consistent with current clinical/medical standards and prohibiting the issuance of an adverse benefit determination related to gender-affirming treatment unless a certain experienced health care provider has reviewed and confirmed the appropriateness of the determination. For these reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 283.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 283. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs