



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: March 1, 2023
RE: HB0283 Maryland Medical Assistance Program –
Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)

The MLLC supports HB0283 Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act), 2023

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0283.

Transgender health equity is a health equity issue broadly. In particular, brown and black transgender Marylanders suffer most from not receiving gender affirming care, as they are more likely to be victims of bias, discrimination and abuse. 10% of Marylanders who identify as transgender are Latino.¹ According to a report on the experiences of Latino respondents by The National Center for Transgender Equality and the TransLatin Coalition, 32% of Latino/a respondents who saw a health care provider in the past year reported having at least one negative experience related to being transgender, such as being refused treatment, being verbally harassed, being physically or sexually assaulted, or having to teach the provider about transgender people in order to get appropriate care.²

This bill brings Maryland into compliance with federal legal guidelines regarding gender-affirming treatment, ensures MD Medicaid offers comprehensive healthcare coverage to the transgender community, and reduces the significant health inequities faced by Maryland's transgender community. The bill requires the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide gender-affirming treatment in a nondiscriminatory manner, which is crucial for transgender Latinos and immigrants in our state.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0283.

¹ Flores, A. R., Brown, T. N. T., & Herman, J. L. (2016). *Race and Ethnicity of Adults Who Identify as Transgender in the United States*. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.

² 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey: Report on the Experiences of Latino/a Respondents. (2015). The National Center for Transgender Equality and the TransLatin Coalition.