

Position: Favorable

Dear Committee on Health and Government Operations,

I am writing to express my strong support for the HB0283/SB0460: Trans Health Equity Act which was presented during the current legislative session. As a concerned citizen and member of Black Girls Vote, I believe that this bill is critical to the well-being of our community and deserves your full support.

The Trans Health Equity Act addresses an issue that is of great importance to our community, and if passed, it will have a positive impact on the lives of many people. According to the Equality and Human Rights Commission, “gender reassignment discrimination is when you are treated differently because you are trans and it doesn’t have to be intentional to be unlawful.”¹ This is unacceptable, and we need to take action to ensure that the Maryland Medical Assistance Program provides medically necessary gender-affirming treatment in a nondiscriminatory manner.

The Trans Health Equity Act offers a comprehensive solution to this issue. It will ensure that gender-affirming medical treatment is provided without discrimination by requiring that the gender-affirming treatment can be assessed according to nondiscriminatory criteria that are consistent with current clinical standards, and prohibit 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 appropriations of the determination.² These measures are vital to protecting the well-being of our community, and I strongly urge you to support this bill.

¹ <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/gender-reassignment-discrimination>

² <https://mqaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/hb/hb0283f.pdf>



I understand that there may be some opposition to this bill, but I believe that the benefits it offers far outweigh any potential drawbacks. This bill has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of people in our community, and I ask that you give it your full support.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to hearing from you soon and to seeing the Trans Health Equity Act become law.

Sincerely,

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