

BRIAN GRIFFITHS

February 10, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee2 East
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Madam Chairman and members of the Committee,

I write to you today in **opposition** to House **Bill 283**, Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act). House Bill 283 is a completely unnecessary bill.

This bill is ridiculous on its face. This bill would require Maryland taxpayers to pay for the gender reassignment treatment of those individuals who qualify for Medicaid.

The Health Insurance Association of America describes Medicaid as "a government insurance program for persons of all ages whose income and resources are insufficient to pay for health care." Nobody can seriously argue that gender reassignment treatment is necessary, much less health care.

If an individual wishes to pay for to change their physical appearance from that of a man to that of a woman or vice versa, they can do so with private funding or through private insurance. Why should taxpayers be expected to subsidize the voluntary mutilation of anybody's body?

Medicaid is design to provide necessary health care for those who can least afford to pay for it. This bill provides no health care to anybody, and merely funds cosmetic procedures for individuals who need real access to real care to protect their long-term health. I strongly urge you to vote NO on House Bill 283.

Respectfully,

