

Written Testimony of Thomas P. and Tina M. Wilson

RE: In Opposition to Senate Bill SB0460 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)

March 24, 2023

As citizens of the state of Maryland, we oppose Maryland **Senate Bill SB0460** as currently drafted. This testimony seeks to express our concerns around **SB0460**.

In a [statement](#) released earlier this month, the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) warned against sex-change treatments' long-term, irreparable harm: *“Conflicting motivations have led to a growing industry dedicated to providing “gender-affirming” procedures that are generally irreversible and have a high probability of causing sterilization. These include puberty “blockers,” sex hormones, and surgery, such as castration, penectomy, and mastectomy. They commit a patient to a lifelong need for medical, surgical, and psychological care.”* Representing 5,000 medical professionals across the United States, the AAPS, through its announcement, also called out the lack of authentic care for young patients when doctors tinker with their physical appearance. The statement further explained *“[g]ender-affirming care’ in minors is medically and ethically contraindicated because of a lack of informed consent. There are inherently unknown and unknowable long-term risks, and the consequences of removing normal, healthy organs are irreversible.”*

While other medical organizations may take a different posture, the fact that such “polar opposites” exist in the medical community suggests that there is not uniformity of opinion on the safety and efficacy of these “affirming” procedures.

Like the members of AAPS, we believe it’s dangerous to assume that minors have all the mental capacity to fully understand the long-term implications of these procedures to achieve “informed consent”. The bill, as currently drafted, does not exclude children or teens under 21 years of age from puberty blockers, cross sex hormones or surgery to remove breasts or reproductive organs for Sexual Dysphoria or Sexual Identity. At a minimum, an amendment is required to restrict such surgery to adults. Young people under 21 do not have the maturity to make an irreversible decision on removing their reproductive related body parts.

Without the suggested changes, we oppose SB0460 and ask the committee to oppose it as well. Thank you for your consideration.