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Health and Government
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House Chair
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of
House Bill 283: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment
(Trans Health Equity Act)
February 14th, 2023**

Madam Chair Peña-Melnyk and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 283: Maryland Medical Assistance Programs - Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)**. This bill will modernize coverage for dealing with gender dysphoria.

First, I'd like to wish a happy valentine's day to Maryland's transgender community and let you all know how much you are loved.

This bill will require Maryland Medicaid to cover an array of gender-affirming treatment in a non-discriminatory way to deal with gender dysphoria. As noted in the fiscal note, I am talking about 'medically necessary treatment consistent with current clinical standards of care prescribed by a licensed health care provider for the treatment of a condition related to the individual's gender identity.' This bill only permits coverage for healthcare that is medically necessary.

As with last year, this bill is a result of consultation with the MD Department of Health as well as in collaboration with medical professionals at Johns Hopkins Medicine, MedStar Health, Chase Brexton Health Care, and many other medical institutions.

Based on old standards, Maryland denies coverage for 31 gender-affirming procedures, such as hair, voice and facial procedures. By including these procedures, we can improve the standard of care for transgender Marylanders, as some of our neighboring states have already done.

I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 283**. Thank you.