

Testimony in Support of HB 283
Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment
Trans Health Equity Act of 2023
Health and Government Operations Committee
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Chair Peña-Melnik and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of House Bill 283. My name is Juliana Fan. I am a resident of District 46 and a third-year medical student at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 283, the Trans Health Equity Act, which would expand Maryland Medicaid to cover lifesaving gender-affirming care.

The Trans Health Equity Act (THEA) addresses a critical gap in the healthcare of transgender Marylanders by ensuring Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming healthcare. Currently, Maryland Medicaid excludes many gender-affirming procedures. There is consensus in the medical community that these procedures are medically necessary and reduce suicide, abuse, discrimination, and harassment. THEA is a low-cost solution that improves the quality of life of trans Marylanders, brings Maryland Medicaid into compliance with federal law, and meets current medical standards.

HB 283 is essential because the consequences for when healthcare is denied for gender diverse folks are dire. I have seen first-hand how increasing barriers in other states' healthcare systems have resulted in care being denied for transgender patients. It is heartbreaking when a patient is stopped from attaining some of the procedures or medications they've been working towards for years.

Please do what you can to support the transgender and gender diverse community. This is an opportunity for Maryland to set a standard for the rest of the country. I strongly urge you to support HB 283.

Thank you for your consideration,

Juliana Fan
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