

Testimony in Support of HB 283
Maryland Medical Assistance Program –
Gender-Affirming Treatment
Trans Health Equity Act of 2023
House Health and Government Operations Committee
February 14, 2023

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Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of House Bill 283.

HB 283 is vitally important. Current Maryland Medicaid provides outdated and minimal coverage to its trans patients. The trans community continually struggles against nonsensical coverage rules, extremely vague non-binary coverage, medication inaccessibility, discriminatory surgery denials, and much more.

As a non-binary trans person on Medicaid, I frequently find myself falling into a difficult grey area. Coverage for many of my prospective procedures is at best uncertain or, worse, completely uncovered. HB 283 would resolve these issues by providing coverage for all gender-affirming procedures and guaranteeing that Medicaid isn't able to deny a procedure without first consulting a trans-experienced doctor on its necessity.

The trans community is a vulnerable population. Trans people on Medicaid, even more so. Being able to access up-to-date comprehensive medical care easily and reliably, care that's monitored by trans-experienced doctors, would save so many lives.

On behalf of myself and my fellow trans Marylanders, I urge you to support HB 283.

Thank you,

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