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Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 28, 2023

Bill: Senate Bill 460 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 460 – the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide gender-affirming treatment in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Supporting gender affirming care in a nondiscriminatory manner is, simply put, lifesaving. The attempted suicide rate for transgender individuals is at an astounding 41% with higher rates for those who have been victims of discrimination. Individuals pursuing gender affirming care should be entitled to care that is assessed and treated according to nondiscriminatory criteria that are consistent with current clinical/medical standards and prohibiting the issuance of an adverse benefit determination related to gender-affirming treatment unless a certain experienced health care provider has reviewed and confirmed the appropriateness of the determination. For these reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 460.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 460. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs