

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

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District 46

Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of House Bill 283. Our names are Samuel Warner and Aanika Balaji. We are soon-to-be-married residents of District 46. We are 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.

The more happy, unique perspectives we have in society, the better. This remains true across the spectrum of communities, organizations, and entire fields, such as science and/or healthcare. We must allow the individuals to make informed decisions that are medically necessary to maximize happiness, and thus promote for the betterment of all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Samuel Warner and Aanika Balaji, M.D., M.P.H.

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