

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-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of House Bill 283. My name is Tara Srinivas. I am a resident of District 46. 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.

I believe that HB 283 is important because all people deserve to feel comfortable in their bodies and to lead healthy lives. Currently, the US is dragging far behind other HICs in its support of not only the right to health but also the right to gender expression. We must do all we can to ensure that we are providing equal care to all members of our community. Those who are already enrolled in Medicaid should receive the care they need to support their health, and the THEA would allow for this parity.

Please do what you can to support this community. I strongly urge you to support HB 283.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tara Srinivas