

**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 Melanie Alfonzo 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 it will protect and sustain the physical and mental health of those who are part of the transgender community in the state of Maryland. Back during my undergraduate years at Johns Hopkins University, I had begun a sexual and reproductive health advocacy club and the benefits of expanding health care coverage to all, including transgender individuals, became exceedingly clear. Withholding access to these medically necessary treatments perpetuates mental health issues that cost healthcare systems money. Supporting HB 283 will improve the health of your constituents. Please note these views are of my own and not the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

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

Thank you for your consideration,

Melanie Alfonzo  
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