

Shane McCammon

Attorney At Law

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to lend my support to HB0283, the Trans Health Equity Act.

I am a licensed attorney, having served for over 12 years as an active-duty Air Force JAG before honorably separating and entering private practice in 2019. I have lived in Maryland since 2009 and have become a proud Marylander. I am also a trans woman, becoming the first openly transgender person at my large law firm and the first openly trans member of the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps. I dedicate a great deal of time advocating on behalf of transgender and gender-nonconforming people, both through my pro bono practice and through my role as the treasurer of the National Trans Bar Association.

I write from a place of immense privilege. Thanks to my job, I can afford high-quality health insurance through Kaiser Permanente, which has done a tremendous job of ensuring I am provided my medically necessary care. I also am fortunate to be able to afford co-pays, deductibles, and the cost of out-of-plan care. Unfortunately, as I know all too well through my pro bono work, so many trans and gender-nonconforming people in our state are not so lucky. Their ability to obtain *medically necessary* care should not depend on how much money is in their bank accounts or whether they qualify for expensive private health insurance. By passing HB0283, this Committee—and the Assembly as a whole—would be ensuring life-saving healthcare for people who desperately need it.

I support HB0283 for another—albeit more pragmatic—reason. Denying trans and gender non-conforming people their medically necessary care violates the U.S. Constitution, the Constitution of Maryland, and federal law (specifically, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act). Several states that have denied benefits for gender-affirming care have found themselves embroiled in lengthy and costly litigation, including North Carolina (*Kadel v. North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees, et al*) and Arizona (*Toomey v. State of Arizona*). On the heels of the Supreme Court's decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, and in light of the Biden Administration's strong stance that the Affordable Care Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity, our state likely will find itself on the losing end of costly litigation should the Assembly not pass The Trans Health Equity Act. As a Maryland taxpayer, I strongly oppose the use of public funds in the quixotic pursuit of defending a policy that is patently unconstitutional and a violation of federal law. Providing low-cost medically necessary care to trans and gender-nonconforming Marylanders is a far better investment of our resources.

I appreciate your consideration of my testimony. I can be reached at 240-416-6221 or shanemccammon@hotmail.com should you have any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,



Shane McCammon (she/her)