



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

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

Hearing Date: March 28, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 460 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)*. The bill would update coverage policies for gender-affirming care under the Maryland Medicaid Program.

In a position statement, our national organization stated that, “ACNM supports efforts to provide transgender and gender non-binary (TGNB) people with access to safe, comprehensive, culturally responsive, and respectful health care.”ⁱ Gender-affirming care is health care, and insurance plans, whether public or private, should provide equitable coverage. Coverage is particularly essential for gender-affirming care, as the TGNB community faces many other challenges, such as employment discrimination, a high risk of violent assault, and high rates of serious behavioral health issues, including suicide. Gender-affirming care is both life-changing and lifesaving.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/00000000326/ACNM--PS--Care%20for%20TGNB%20People-%20Final_1.pdf