

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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Baltimore/46

Student at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (these are my personal views that don't represent the school)

Chair Peña-Melnik and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of House Bill 283. My name is Annabelle Pan. 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...

Healthcare is a human right and denying it to someone because of their identity violates human rights.

People I know who have received gender affirming care are so, so happy to be able to take their body into their own control, in the same way as anyone who has a health condition that causes them great distress.

This bill literally saves lives

End with a call to action!

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,

Annabelle Pan
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