

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

Kensey Katz
Baltimore, District 46

Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of House Bill 283. My name is Kensey Katz. 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 help reduce health disparities for a historically vulnerable population. I have transgender friends who have experienced discrimination while seeking medical care, and passing this bill would make them feel more represented and valued in our healthcare systems. As a current Master of Public Health student at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, determining ways to address inequities is important to me. When we have identified evidence-based systemic solutions, we need to start implementing them to foster health equity.

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

Thank you for your consideration,

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