

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 283

Title: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Gender-Affirming Treatment
(Trans Health Equity Act of 2023)

Hearing: February 14, 2023

Position: Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland strongly supports *House Bill 82 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act of 2023)*. This bill will ensure that Maryland's Medicaid policy reflects current best practices.

We provide medical care to many transgender Marylanders, and we have seen firsthand the importance of access to gender-affirming care. Maryland Medicaid currently does not cover many gender-affirming services even if necessary to address a patient's gender dysphoria. In addition to expanding coverage, this bill also prohibits Medicaid from denying a claim unless a provider with experience with gender-affirming care reviews the claim. This is essential because many forms of gender-affirming are often written off as "cosmetic." Therefore, denials must be reviewed by a provider with knowledge of current gender-affirming care standards.

We ask for a favorable vote on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.