

Oppose SB 460

- Irreversible procedures, such as “gender-affirming treatment” are suitable only for adults and only after substantial mental health or psychological evaluation. However, the bill does not specify any age limit. Since the bill requires the Medical Assistance Program to cover all costs, schools and doctors may influence and coerce children to undergo such procedures. Even providers who have financial interest in such procedures may be able to recommend them to vulnerable children.

- The bill talks about medical necessity but does not describe whether the program covers the cost of evaluating the medical necessity.

- Some school systems allow recommending such treatments to children and concealing the fact from parents. Having expenses covered by a state program completely excludes parents from the evaluation and decision making process.

- The bill allows for abuse of taxpayer funds, since reporting requirements do not include review of the amount spent on such procedures, independent review of the necessity of procedures, or any evaluation of patient benefit versus risks.

Sincerely,
Mark Meyerovich
Gaithersburg, MD