

Testimony in Support of HB 283
Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment
Trans Health Equity Act of 2023
Health and Government Operations Committee
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Baltimore city

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg school of public health

Chair Peña-Melnik and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of House Bill 283. My name is **Madhumitha Mathivanan**. I am a resident of District 45. 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 I am a physician and I believe that this Bill is a massive step ahead in providing equitable healthcare for my trans and non-binary patients. All the procedures mentioned in the bill are very important to ensure adequate quality of life for trans individuals. I have personally seen patients who have had to undergo hair removal, tracheal shaving and facial feminizing surgeries without financial assistance and have seen the toll it takes on their financial lives to have to pay for these procedures themselves.

- The views expressed here are my own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of Johns Hopkins University and Medicine, although I am pleased to note that Johns Hopkins does officially support this legislation.”

***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,

Madhumitha Mathivanan

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