

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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Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of House Bill 283.

I believe that HB 283 is important because everyone deserves to live authentically, and it is only fair that individuals who need gender affirming care have access to it in order to achieve that authenticity.

I am the mother of a beautiful and vibrant trans-female teen daughter. I have watched her struggle with severe gender dysphoria which has led to feelings of low self-worth, anxiety, disassociation, suicidal ideation and depressive symptoms. Although we have always been an extremely supportive family, it wasn't until she started hormone therapy that we began to see how much of a difference it made in her confidence and self-perception. I believe it saved her life.

Our family has good medical insurance which allows us to provide the care she needs, but not everyone has that privilege. Transgender individuals are often at risk in so many areas and Medicaid is their only option. I want this to be available to my daughter, should she ever need it. This bill should be passed so that anyone needing gender affirming care can have the opportunity to live a safe, active, happy and healthy life.

Please do what you can to support this vulnerable community, and give them the chance to live with the authenticity they deserve. I strongly urge you to support HB 283.

Thank you for your consideration,

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