



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1283  
Insurance - Discrimination - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity  
Before the Health and Government Operations Committee  
By Stephanie Klapper, Deputy Director, Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative  
March 7, 2024**

Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1283 on behalf of Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, a nonprofit advocacy organization with a mission to ensure access to quality, affordable health care. Special thank you to Delegate Martinez for sponsoring this legislation. We strongly support HB 1283. It is critical that nobody is discriminated against when purchasing or using their health insurance based on their sexual orientation or gender. With this legislation Maryland can become a more equitable and inclusive state. We urge a favorable report on HB 1283 and thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hrc.org/resources/attacks-on-gender-affirming-care-by-state-map>