

Dear Senator Lam and Finance Committee members –

My name is Greg Wahl; I am a professor of English at Montgomery College, Takoma Park Silver Campus. I have had the honor of appearing in front of the Maryland Assembly as the Maryland state Professor of the Year in 2013, where a proclamation in my honor was handed to me by American hero Jamie Raskin, a thrill of a lifetime. I live in the District of Columbia, but the work that has been my mission for the past twenty years and will remain so until the end of my days is with community college students in Maryland.

I am writing in enthusiastic support of both SB0119, and of all your efforts protecting gender affirming care in Maryland. My family, and many many others from Ohio, West Virginia, Florida and an alarming number of other states may at some point in the near future need to move to Maryland in order for my family members to legally receive the health care that is a basic human right. In addition, I have the opportunity to get to know students at Montgomery College each semester for whom the protection of their rights in Maryland is literally life-saving. I have seen many young people have the opportunity to thrive and contribute to their communities because they know that in Maryland, they can simply be who they are without discrimination.

Gender affirming care is healthcare. Trans men are men. Trans women are women. Trans boys are boys. Trans girls are girls. All are human beings with a right to healthcare. All can contribute to a strong, healthy Maryland when given the chance. Thank you for your efforts to build safe, just, caring communities in Maryland.

Greg Wahl