



**Senate Bill 119 – Legally Protected Health Care – Gender-Affirming Treatment**  
**Hearing of the Senate Finance Committee, February 15, 2024**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

---

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Homeless Persons Representation Project (HPRP) is a non-profit civil legal aid organization that provides free legal services to Marylanders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness on issues that create barriers to housing and economic stability. HPRP also advocates for policies that will prevent and end homelessness statewide. Gender-affirming healthcare is vital for HPRP’s transgender and non-binary clients, who experience high rates of homelessness and discrimination in housing, employment, and healthcare. HPRP is submitting this testimony in support of SB119, Legally Protected Healthcare - Gender-Affirming Treatment, which would add gender-affirming care to the definition of legally protected healthcare in Maryland.

Gender affirming care is recognized as medically necessary care by every major medical association, including the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics. SB 119 is a simple technical fix that adds gender affirming healthcare to the definition of “legally protected healthcare” in Maryland, a critical protection for consumers and healthcare providers. Last year, Governor Moore issued an Executive Order that shields gender-affirming care from out-of-state litigation. However, without the Maryland General Assembly defining gender-affirming care as legally protected healthcare, consumers and providers remain vulnerable in a time when many states have banned or proposed to ban gender-affirming care. Maryland must continue to be a safe haven for transgender people and pass this technical fix to ensure that life-saving care remains protected in our state.

**HPRP urges the Committee to move FAVORABLE on SB 119.**

**For more information, please contact Ingrid Lofgren, Director of HPRP’s Homeless Youth Initiative, at [ilofgren@hprplaw.org](mailto:ilofgren@hprplaw.org) or (410)656-9975.**