

Senate Bill 119

Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment

February 15, 2024

Support

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

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of Senate Bill 119.

My name is Kristen Monthei and I am a resident of District 7. I am 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.

I believe that SB119 is important because everyone deserves to live authentically without fear of prosecution.

I am the mother of a beautiful and vibrant trans-female 19 year old 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.

This bill should be passed so that anyone needing gender affirming care can be protected and have the opportunity to live a safe, active, happy and healthy life. It is also important to protect our medical professionals who provide this care.

Please support this vulnerable community and give them the chance to live with the authenticity dignity they deserve. I strongly urge you to support SB119.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristen Monthei
407 Montemar Ave
Catonsville, MD 21228