



Senate Bill 119 / House Bill 691
Legally Protected Health Care – Gender–Affirming Treatment
Position: FAV

My name is Joyce Jackson. I am a Senior Medical Office Assistant and a member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. Our union is the largest healthcare workers union in the USA, with 10,000+ members in MD/DC. We urge the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on SB119/HB691.

The clinic where I work provides GAC. Many of my patients with Gender Dysphoria experience depression and isolation that lowers their quality of life. People in the transgender community want to be who they recognize themselves to be and to be able to live in the body they are comfortable living in, no matter what other States have to say about it. When my patients can receive GAC, I see such a positive change in them. Their mental health and self-esteem improve drastically.

SB119/HB69 is important for protecting Maryland's providers of GAC as we see more transgender people flee to our region to escape anti-trans laws in their home states. At the clinic where I work, there's an influx of trans people coming to us from out of the region to receive GAC. That puts a target on the backs of Maryland's GAC providers.

Washington DC has shielding protections for GAC, and Maryland should too.

My late brother was transgender. Back in the 70's, he did not have access to GAC at all. This is one of the reasons I fight so fiercely on behalf of my transgender patients and coworkers who provide GAC. I have a big heart and I believe *everyone*, no matter their gender, deserves access to high quality healthcare – and that healthcare workers should not be punished for following the Standard of Care. Please vote YES on SB119/HB691. Thank you.

In Unity,

Joyce Jackson
Ladyjaye1@hotmail.com