

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 119
Legally Protected Healthcare - Gender-Affirming Treatment

TO: The Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Jamie Grace Alexander on behalf of Baltimore Action Legal Team

My name is Jamie Grace Alexander, I am with the Trans Rights Advocacy Coalition 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 want to clarify that I am **not** here with you today to relitigate whether gender affirming care is medically necessary. It is.

We, the community being discussed, you, the legislature (**through the passage of the Trans Health Equity Act**) & the medical professionals behind me all agree that this treatment is medically necessary.

Last year the legislature also agreed to these same protections that SB119 will establish for abortion care providers with **The Reproductive Health Protection Act**. Women's rights & trans justice are parallel struggles in the fight for bodily autonomy. That protection needs parity.

We are here talking about **legal** protections for **medically necessary** healthcare. I have consistently fought for the legal protections of my community & right now that means making sure that our bodily autonomy is equally ensured.

Speaking personally,

I am a recipient of gender affirming care. –It has made a huge difference in my life.

I felt poisoned by my own body all throughout puberty.

New hormones have helped my dysphoria significantly.

My life opened when I started to transition.

& I'm not alone.

Identifying as transgender makes me part of a community of people who were brave enough to forge themselves. [Many Studies have measured that hormones have a significantly positive effect on trans individuals' psychological functioning, emotional well, social functioning & quality of life over time.](#)

Pass SB119 & ensure our community gets to see those positive improvements in the future. The Trans Rights Advocacy coalition urges a favorable report on SB119.

[A Systematic Review of the Effects of Hormone Therapy on Psychological Functioning and Quality of Life in Transgender Individuals - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)