



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

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brige Dumais (they/them) and I am the Political Coordinator of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We represent 10,000 members in Maryland, including members who provide Gender Affirming Healthcare (GAC) at hospitals and clinics. 1199 is a co-leader of the Trans Rights Advocacy Coalition. We urge a **favorable** report on SB119/HB691 to shield GAC patients, providers, and supporters from out-of-state litigation by amending the definition of “legally protected healthcare” to include GAC.

All healthcare sectors in Maryland are experiencing a dire short staffing crisis right now. Many GAC providers are general practitioners who offer a wide range of healthcare services. If these practitioners are penalized for providing GAC, the care workforce will shrink further, putting undue burden on the remaining healthcare workers and potentially impacting quality of care. Therefore, shielding healthcare workers who provide GAC will benefit all Marylanders, not only those who receive this type of care.

Maryland is the southernmost “Trans Sanctuary State” on the East Coast, making us geographically closest to States where GAC is being criminalized. Healthcare workers are reporting an influx of trans patients coming to Maryland from Florida and West Virginia in particular, two states with some of the most regressive GAC bans. As such, Maryland’s GAC providers have a target on their backs. We call upon you, the Legislature, to ensure these healthcare providers have a proper shield. Please vote YES on SB119/HB691. Thank you.

In Unity,

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