

**UNFAVORABLE**  
**House Bill 722**  
**Health – Minors – Gender and Sex Transition Procedures**

**House Ways and Means Committee**  
**February 21, 2024**

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**Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association strongly opposes House Bill 722, which would, in practice, ban gender-affirming care for minors and criminalize medical providers who facilitate gender-affirming care for minors.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

This legislation is based heavily on model legislation by Do No Harm, an extremist anti-LGBTQ group whose founder also opposes anti-racist education in medical schools.<sup>1 2</sup> The consequences for medical professionals who provide gender-affirming care in this bill are in fact more stringent than those in Do No Harm's model: while their bill recommends professional and civil consequences, this legislation would criminalize medical professionals with a mandatory minimum prison sentence.<sup>3</sup> The draconian restrictions in this bill are discriminatory and medically baseless.<sup>4</sup>

In states that have passed bills like this one, attempts to ban all gender-affirming care, including for adults, often follow close behind.<sup>5</sup> This pseudoscientific campaign has alarming implications for transgender Marylanders. Everyone deserves care and dignity, and this bill is anathema to that goal.

**We strongly urge the committee to issue an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 722.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://donoharmmedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Do-No-Harm-The-JUST-FACTS-Act-Model-Legislation.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.splcenter.org/captain/defining-pseudoscience-network>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/gender-affirming-care-young-people.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.axios.com/2023/03/29/transgender-health-care-adult-ban-bills>