

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill number: HB 722 - Health – Minors – Gender and Sex Transition Procedures

Hearing Date: February 21, 2024

Position: Oppose

The Women's Law Center of Maryland (WLC) strongly opposes *House Bill 722 – Health – Minors – Gender and Sex Transition Procedures*. The legislation proposes to create a misdemeanor penalty with a minimum sentence of at least one year imprisonment for health care providers who provide certain gender affirming care without parental consent.

Maryland law already requires parental consent for the services delineated in this legislation, and a violation of these requirements could lead to disciplinary action by a health occupations board. This bill is solely designed to create a chilling effect on providers of gender affirming care in Maryland. The proposed criminal penalty is extreme and mirrors the criminal penalties that some states have adopted for providers of abortion care.

We urge an unfavorable report on this bill. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland