

**Emily Tarsell, LCPC**

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**2314 Benson Mill Road  
Sparks, Maryland 21152**

February 21, 2024

**HB 722 - Favorable  
Health – Minors – Gender and Sex Transition Procedures**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and HGO Committee Delegates,

I am Emily Tarsell, a mother, licensed mental health counselor and President of Health Choice Maryland.

Although it is my understanding that current legislation does require the written authorization and informed consent of the parent/guardian or legal custodian of a minor prior to any medical or surgical procedure to change or effect in any way the sex or gender of a minor, it is important to codify that in law. Any future attempt to eliminate parental consent would thereby be curtailed.

The goal is to create a more accepting society for individual young people to be, express and realize their true self. That is best done openly with the child, parent/guardian and where indicated, a knowledgeable, unbiased professional. Legally validating and supporting parental rights is important and foundational to creating and modeling an environment in which everyone is heard and respected and can work toward solutions together.

Please vote **Favorable for HB 722**

Thank you.

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