



TESTIMONY FOR SB0119 Legally Protected Health Care – Gender–Affirming Treatment

Bill Sponsor: Senators Lam, Hettleman, and Waldstreicher

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0119 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

2023 legislation protected the confidentiality of those seeking reproductive services. SB0119, Gender Affirming Care Protection Act, extends these protections to cover gender-affirming care. It also includes protection from out-of-state sources.

People need to be able to seek the care they need free from disclosure leading to fear, legal action, intimidation, and violence. A large majority of transgender adults in the United States – 78% – say living with a gender different from the one assigned to them at birth has made them more satisfied with their lives (The Washington Post and Kaiser Family Foundation). We need to remove barriers for those seeking such satisfaction. It is a pursuit of happiness.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.