

TRANS MARYLAND



Trans Maryland
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House Bill 65 – Parental Notice
Health and Government Operations Committee
March 13, 2024
Position: Oppose

Greetings Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and the esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. Trans Maryland is a multi-racial, multi-gender community power building organization for Maryland’s trans community. Trans Maryland runs the state’s largest name and gender marker change program, offering peer-to-peer guidance and financial assistance to Marylanders seeking a name and gender marker change. We also run the state’s largest peer to peer connection space for Trans Marylanders. We represent thousands of transgender Marylanders who have detailed the barriers they face in accessing affirming medical care. We strongly urge the Committee to vote against House Bill 65 in all its forms, and any similar “forced outing” bill that may be introduced.

For many children and youth, gender affirming care is as simple as affirming them in their expressed identities. A recent [survey](#) of peer-reviewed scientific studies by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), demonstrates hundreds of studies showing culminating in several recommendations including that “parents/caregivers and health care professionals respond supportively to children who desire to be acknowledged as the gender that matches their internal sense of gender identity”. Studies cited in WPATH show that children develop their gender identity as they are learning to speak [as young as age 3](#) and [identify more with peers](#) of their gender identity than the gender assigned to them at birth. [According to WPATH](#), transgender children experience psychological difficulties because of gender diversity-related rejection, whereas children whose gender identities are accepted are well-adjusted. Transgender children, like all children, have “positive mental health, less depressive symptoms, high self-esteem and life satisfaction in later adolescence” [when they are supported](#) in their identities.

House Bill 65 contains a forced outing provision that would *require* school health practitioner, health care providers, or certified school psychologists to provide a student’s parent or guardian information about any consultation, diagnosis, or treatment provided to the student *regardless* of whether the student’s wishes the disclosure or whether the student would be made unsafe, and contrary to professional responsibility obligations to protect the student’s confidentiality. See *House Bill 65 § 7–401 (d)*.

Transgender students who feel safe sharing their gender identity with their families will do so, and are not at issue in this law. Transgender children face a demonstrable risk of [rejection](#) and [abuse](#) because of their gender identity, which results in transgender youth being overrepresented in [homeless shelters](#) and [foster care homes](#). If enacted, House Bill 65 would escalate this issue in Maryland for the transgender Marylanders we serve. Transgender Marylanders deserve to protect our identities as we see fit.

We urge that you oppose House Bill 65 in all its forms.

For more information, contact Lee Blinder, Executive Director of Trans Maryland at lee@transmaryland.org