

THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.



HB1399 – Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors - Prohibition (Protect the Kids Act) House Health & Government Operations Committee March 11, 2025

Position: OPPOSE

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1996 who are concerned about the care of Maryland's most vulnerable children and work together to promote meaningful child welfare reform. CPMC urges an unfavorable report on HB1399 – Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors - Prohibition (Protect the Kids Act).¹

HB1399 seeks to prohibit a licensed health care practitioner from prescribing, dispensing, or administering a hormonal therapy for gender affirming care of a minor. This legislation is designed to intimidate health care providers with criminal penalties. If enacted, some health care practitioners might stop providing any services to transgender and nonbinary youth because of the fear of criminal prosecution. This would have a disastrous effect on access to care for needed services. Health care providers should be able to provide the best care for their patients, which may include gender-affirming care, without the risk of going to prison. This bill takes the power away from Maryland families to engage in evidence-based decision-making about the health needs of minors and ban the option of access to hormonal therapy. This bill is not about parental rights nor establishing parental consent requirements, as Maryland law already requires parental consent for any of the gender affirming care services.

Access to medically-necessary, age-appropriate, evidence-based, gender-affirming care for transgender and gender-expansive minors is supported by major reputable American health care professional associations, including, inter alia, the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American College of Physicians, the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Further, the AMA, ANA, and APA, among others, oppose and condemn legislation which seeks to restrict access to gender-affirming care to minors and penalize those who provide such care as this proposed bill.

It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges an unfavorable report** on HB1399 – Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors - Prohibition (Protect the Kids Act).

¹ Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include Child Justice, Center for Hope, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA- Maryland), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA - Baltimore County), Maryland Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV), and the National Association of Social Workers – MD (NASW).

