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The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony of Trans Maryland

IN SUPPORT OF

House Bill #1059: Health - Maryland Helping Everyone Afford Life-Saving
Treatments and Health Care (HEALTH) Fund and Income Tax Checkoff

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Trans Maryland is a multi-racial, multi-gender, trans-led community power building organization dedicated to Maryland's trans community. Trans Maryland believes in protecting the rights of all Marylanders, particularly transgender community members, to access safe, inclusive, and appropriate healthcare.

Unfortunately, the past two months have seen an unremitting attack from the second Trump Administration against transgender people and especially our ability to access health care, including multiple executive orders instructing federal agencies to cut off spending on transition-related services for adults and minors alike, including instructions to the Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) to adopt conditions of participation or conditions for coverage that are likely to prohibit providers from participating in Medicare or Medicaid if they offer *any* transition-related services, regardless of whether or not federal funds are used for the treatment. We are also likely to see a hurricane of anti-trans spending riders in the 2026 budget bills, which will be going through Congress in the coming months.

Given this unprecedented attack on access to healthcare for transgender people, it is crucial that the state of Maryland stand up and make clear its commitment to ensure affordable healthcare for all of its residents, including those of us who are transgender.

House Bill 1059 will not somehow magically solve this crisis. Indeed, one could fairly ask if it offers anymore more than a drop in the bucket to the crisis that is unfolding for transgender Marylanders. This is, however, the wrong perspective: while House Bill 1059 does not provide the crucial funding necessary, it does create a mechanism through which that funding can be funneled. In essence, it creates the bucket into which a million drops of funding can flow.

Of course, merely putting out the bucket doesn't make the hurricane go away. If House Bill 1059 proves to be the only step taken by the Maryland General Assembly to address the federal attacks on transgender Marylanders, we will not be able to survive the brutal storm that is heading



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our way. This cannot be the last step the state takes to help protect our community in its darkest hour. But, it can, perhaps, be one of the first.

For these reasons, Trans Maryland urges a favorable report with amendment on House Bill 1059.