



To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 1399 – Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors - Prohibition (Protect the Kids Act)

Date: March 11, 2025

Position: Unfavorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA) strongly opposes *House Bill 1399 – Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors - Prohibition (Protect the Kids Act)*. The bill would make it a felony with up-to lifetime imprisonment for a licensed health care practitioner to provide gender-affirming hormone therapy to a minor.

All major clinical organizations have recognized the value of general affirming care, including hormonal therapy, for minors.ⁱ This legislation would jeopardize the health and wellbeing of transgender youth in Maryland. Healthcare practitioners would be hesitant to provide any type of treatment to transgender youth for fear of it being misconstrued.

We ask for an unfavorable report. Health care providers should be able to provide the best care for their patients, which may include gender-affirming care, without the risk of imprisonment. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/25340/AAP-reaffirms-gender-affirming-care-policy>

<https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-reinforces-opposition-restrictions-transgender-medical-care>

<https://www.nursingworld.org/news/news-releases/2022-news-releases/american-nurses-association-opposes-restrictions-on-transgender-healthcare-and-criminalizing-gender-affirming-care/>