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Wednesday February 12, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony of Trans Maryland

IN SUPPORT OF

House Bill #722: Maryland Department of Health - Report on Oversight of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs and Recovery Residences

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations 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, including access to efficacious treatments for mental health.

Substance use disorders are a serious problem across Maryland as people are trying to cope with the various hardships of life, a problem made worse as people face additional stresses as the federal government continues to strip away people's human rights. People facing substance use disorders deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and implementing reports and oversight on substance use disorder treatment programs and recovery residences helps us ensure that this dignity and respect is being offered while these people are in active treatment.

Additionally, monitoring this data can help ascertain the impact of these programs across the state and can be the first step in making improvements to treatment programs and recovery residences that will positively impact everyone.

For these reasons, Trans Maryland urges a favorable report on House Bill 722.