



Testimony HB1399
Health Occupations - Cross Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors - Prohibition
Position: UNFAVORABLE

To Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Brige Dumais (they/them) and I am the Political Coordinator with 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation, representing 10,000 members in Maryland and Washington, DC, including members who provide Gender Affirming Care (GAC) in Federally Qualified Health Centers and hospitals across our state. We urge an **unfavorable** report on HB1399, which would ban access to life saving healthcare for transgender youth¹ and imprison healthcare providers for prescribing treatments that are aligned with the clinical standard of care².

The American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and other major, credible medical associations have all deemed GAC safe and medically necessary.³ This Committee has heard from local medical providers, as well as transgender people and their family members, about the benefits of GAC. Because of that, this body passed the Trans Health Equity Act in 2023 and the Trans Shield Act in 2024. If passed, HB1399 would be a huge step backwards.

HB1399 recommends the opposite of medical best practices, and the language is not medically accurate. The bill refers to gender nonconformity as a “mental health diagnosis,” even though the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders refutes that characterization⁴. Additionally, healthcare providers do not use the term “cross-sex hormones” for pubertal suppression treatments or hormone therapy treatments. **These inaccuracies demonstrate that HB1399 is not actually about healthcare or “protecting kids”.**

It is unsuitable for politicians to impose their political ideologies on personal healthcare decisions. Those choices are meant to be made between healthcare providers, patients and, in the case of youth, their legal guardians.

Furthermore, HB1399 is discriminatory because it seeks to remove access to pubertal suppression treatments only for transgender children, not cisgender children. **All children deserve access to the healthcare they need.** Discrimination and taking away access to GAC is dangerous⁵ for Maryland’s transgender children. **Please protect kids by voting NO on this callous bill.** Thank you.

In Unity,

Brige Dumais (they/them), brigitte.dumais@1199.org

¹ [https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(24\)00439-7/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(24)00439-7/fulltext)

² <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644>

³ <https://transhealthproject.org/resources/medical-organization-statements/>

⁴ [https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/diversity/education/transgender-and-gender-nonconforming-patients/gender-dysphoria-diagnosis#:~:text=The%20DSM%E2%80%935%20articulates%20explicitly,\(e.g.%2C%20hormonal%20treatment\)](https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/diversity/education/transgender-and-gender-nonconforming-patients/gender-dysphoria-diagnosis#:~:text=The%20DSM%E2%80%935%20articulates%20explicitly,(e.g.%2C%20hormonal%20treatment))

⁵ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2024/>