

Health and Government Operations Committee  
Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison

Tracy Lamas  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To the Honorable Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison,

My name is Tracy Lamas. I am a public educator that has served countless students since I moved to this state in 2018. Just as I am certain each member of the Maryland House is proud to live in this state, I am *exceptionally* proud to be a Marylander; time and time again, I have seen my representatives champion dignity and freedom for me and other constituents.

To be American, and thus a Marylander, must mean that each member of our community has the dignity of self-determination and freedom to live as their authentic self. It is with that belief that I implore the committee to vote NO against House Bill 1399 “Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors – Prohibition (Protect the Kids Act).”

It is reductive to say that transgender Americans are under attack. This is a problem that reaches far beyond Maryland. Transgender people are being told that they are frauds and unworthy of respect. In the crossroads of this unnecessary culture war, transgender children are suffering deeply and being denied life-saving healthcare as a result.

What I find most tragic is that most perpetrators of this rhetoric have never consciously met a transgender person. I have met numerous. Further, I have met many transgender students, all of which have been thoughtful, earnest, and kind. Of those who’ve shared their stories with me, none have regretted gender affirming care. In fact, they’ve expressed nothing but deep gratitude to live in a state that has allowed them to embrace who they are.

The research on gender-affirming care affirms this. *Very few individuals regret access to gender-affirming care.* Hormonal replacement therapy is not treated lightly; it is a decision made carefully between health providers, parents, and their children. To deny Marylanders this right would be devastating. Bill 1399 would additionally open the door to limiting gender affirming care amongst adults (such as we’re seeing currently in Texas), as well as discourage qualified physicians to work in our state (where they may be penalized for providing needed care).

Thank you for reading and considering my testimony. I truly hope that you and the committee side against this ban and vote no on HB 1399.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Lamas