

## **Testimony in Support of HB 679 – Health Occupations – Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors**

**Brigitta Mullican**, Rockville, Maryland 20851, Legislative District 17

I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of HB 679**.

HB 679 would prohibit a licensed health care practitioner from prescribing, dispensing, or administering cross-sex hormones, or otherwise providing cross-sex hormone therapy, to minors for the treatment of mental health diagnoses associated with gender nonconformity, including gender dysphoria. I believe this legislation is necessary to protect children from irreversible medical interventions at a time when they are still physically, emotionally, and cognitively developing.

Minors are not legally permitted to consent to many permanent or life-altering decisions, and medical interventions that can cause lasting physical changes should be approached with extreme caution. Cross-sex hormone therapy carries known risks, including impacts on fertility, bone density, cardiovascular health, and long-term mental well-being. These risks should not be imposed on children who may later come to understand their identity differently as they mature.

Mental health challenges associated with gender dysphoria should be addressed with compassionate, evidence-based psychological support rather than medical treatments that permanently alter a child's body. HB 679 emphasizes counseling and mental health care and delays irreversible medical decisions until adulthood.

This legislation is not about discrimination or denial of care. It is about **protecting minors**, ensuring ethical medical practice, and allowing young people the time and space to mature before making decisions with lifelong consequences.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **Favorable Report on HB 679**.