

The Honorable Chair
Delegate Heather Bagnall
Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: OPPOSITION of House Bill 0679
Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors**

To the Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and esteemed members of the Health Committee, My name is Cass Caveney, I am a resident of Silver Spring, MD. I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 0679 Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors). All major medical associations consider age-appropriate transition-related care medically-necessary, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the Endocrine Society, the Federation of Pediatric Organizations, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, and more.

The American Medical Association states that trans and nonbinary gender identities are normal variations of human identity and expression. HB0679 would deny gender-affirming care which can have tragic health consequences, both mental and physical, as well as ignoring every major medical association's insistence that this care is medically-necessary

It is absolutely unconscionable to single out a group of children and deny them access to needed care. Maryland must continue to protect all children and adolescents in the state and ensure they have the medical and mental health support they deserve.

For these reasons and many more, **I ask the Health Committee to give HB0679 an unfavorable report.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cass Caveney