

HB679 - Unfavorable - Health Committee

Honorable Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health Committee,

My name is Carolyn Lampila and I am a resident of Montgomery County. I am requesting an unfavorable report of House Bill 679.

I am a cisgender ally of the transgender community so do not have a personal lived experience of the impact of transition-related care. However, I know from friends and learning about the lives of transgender people that transition-related care has critically important, often life-saving, impacts on their lives. Furthermore, every major medical association considers age-appropriate transition-related care medically necessary. These associations include 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 others.

Puberty is a challenging time for so many adolescents and I cannot imagine the additional mental and physical pain of facing puberty in the wrong gender. Research consistently shows that access to transition-related care, including gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues (commonly referred to as “puberty blockers”) or hormone therapies where age-appropriate, reduces mental health issues and increases quality of life for transgender youth. These GnRH analogues merely pause puberty and are also used for cisgender adolescents who may start to experience puberty too early. Hormone therapies are also used for cisgender adolescents and adults who do not produce sufficient hormones.

Finally, those in opposition to transition-related care for youth often cite instances of individuals’ reversing their gender-affirming care. However, the [2022 U.S. Trans Survey](#), the largest survey of transgender people in the U.S., demonstrates overwhelming benefits of transition-related care with 98% of respondents reporting that they were either “a lot more satisfied” (84%) or “a little more satisfied” (14%) with their life after receiving hormone replacement therapy and only 0.36% reporting that they had gone back to living as their sex assigned at birth because transitioning was not right for them.

Once again, I request an unfavorable report of HB679 and urge the committee to protect the health of transgender youth in Maryland.

Best regards,

Carolyn Lampila
Silver Spring