

Health Committee
House Bill 1380
Favorable

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Health Committee;

Please give House Bill 1380 a favorable report. There is no life, liberty, or pursuit of happiness without access to healthcare. Gender-affirming healthcare is often life-saving, and medication is one form of gender-affirming healthcare.

Despite Maryland laws against it, there continues to be employment discrimination against transgender people. There are also still many families who reject transgender family members, including parents who kick out their children. These are significant contributors to a high poverty rate and underemployment among transgender people. Every little bit of cost-savings helps, especially when you don't know how stable your job is due to the bigotry of others.

In addition to anti-trans bigotry concerns in Maryland, we are faced with an increasingly hostile federal government that is hellbent on denying transgender people any rights. This has included the federal government threatening medical providers in Maryland. Having an extended supply of some gender-affirming medications would help ease the concerns that many transgender people have about healthcare access.

For these reasons, and because transgender people could use some good news, please vote in favor of House Bill 1380. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD