

Bill: HB679
Position: Unfavorable
Committee: Health Committee
February 15, 2026

Unfavorable Testimony for HB679 – Health Occupations – Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors

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

My name is Coen Doss, and I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, a member of Maryland's transgender community, and a resident of Legislative District 32. I am writing today to voice my **strong opposition to HB679** which would prohibit medical practitioners from providing gender-affirming care to transgender youth. Though I don't have the experience of being a transgender youth denied access to gender-affirming care, I do have the experience of being a transgender adult denied access to it.

In 2019, I was an active-duty member of the United States Air Force just beginning to realize I myself am transgender, serving under Trump's first term and ban on transgender servicemembers. Unable to pursue any form of medical treatment that would further my transition, I became deeply depressed and experienced frequent, severe bouts of suicidal ideation. I spent countless nights drafting letters to my loved ones—saying my goodbyes, apologizing profusely, and specifying which of my personal belongings I wanted left to whom. Even on the days when the thought of killing myself wasn't absolutely debilitating, the idea of leaving this world behind influenced my every decision. I didn't chase down awards or promotions, because I thought they would be more useful given to people who saw a future for themselves. I didn't collect many things so as not to burden people with too much to pack up once I was gone. I didn't attempt to establish or deepen many relationships with people, because it felt selfish to form attachments when I may not be here the next day. My life became stunted and incredibly insular.

Though I clearly survived it—largely due to the ban being lifted in 2021—I often wish I could have begun my medical transition sooner. Not only would it have saved me from the psychological and emotional turmoil I suffered, but it also would have saved my family from the hell they went through every time I called. Each time, they had to sit in the uncertainty that followed, wondering if they would ever hear from me again.

I beg of you, please consider how much more difficult such an experience would be for transgender adolescents, who without gender-affirming care will have to endure feeling and watching their bodies actively betray them. Consider how, during a time when their emotions are already heightened, they may be quicker to reach for a gun, a noose, or a bottle of pills than I was. Consider this legislation to be, for all intents and purposes, a death sentence for some of our nation's most marginalized and vulnerable youth.

For these reasons, **I strongly urge an unfavorable report on HB679.** Thank you.

Very respectfully,

Coen Doss (he/they)