

## **HB0679 - Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors (UNF)**

Christopher West  
315 Townleigh Road  
Reisterstown, MD 21136  
[cwest1099@pm.me](mailto:cwest1099@pm.me)  
410-949-7057

Chair, members of the committee –

I am writing today to voice my opposition to proposed legislation, the Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors (HB0679). I am writing as a parent of a transgendered daughter and have grave concerns that a government entity is attempting to insert itself between medical doctors and patients.

When my daughter first came out to us, neither my wife or I had any idea about transgendered issues or health care. What we had noticed was the extreme depression, anxiety, and even self-destructive behaviors. I will admit, it was a steep learning curve for us but through talking with other parents and, most importantly, our health care provider, we were able to start hormone replacement therapy prior to her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

I'd like to note that **every** major medical and mental health organization in the U.S.—including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the Endocrine Society—recognizes that gender-affirming hormone therapy can be medically necessary for some transgender youth with gender dysphoria. Her care included a carefully managed process and frequent communication between her medical doctors and her mental health providers.

This bill would strip parents of our right to seek the best evidence-based care for our children, even when it is supported by expert consensus. Politicians have no business deciding health care decisions, especially when they have no experience with transgendered people.

The bill fuels a false narrative that minors are receiving hormones casually or without oversight, which is simply not true in ethical medical practice. We were able to access the hormone therapy only after rigorous assessments, that included multiple healthcare providers and finally our daughter's and our own consent.

We are now eight years from when our daughter first came out to us. I am happy to report that my daughter is thriving. She is in her final year of college, does volunteer work in the community and is living as who she was born to be.

This bill doesn't protect kids—it harms them by denying medically necessary care, overriding parents and doctors, and singling out vulnerable youth for discrimination. We should trust families and medical experts, not politicians, to make healthcare decisions for transgender youth.

Please vote against HB0679.

Respectfully,

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