

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 DJ. I am a resident of Baltimore City. I am writing to name **my opposition to House Bill 0679 Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors**). Transgender youth are not “misdiagnosed autistic kids”. While it is true that autistic people are more likely than their neurotypical peers to also identify as transgender or gender diverse, there is no evidence that anyone is pressuring autistic youth to transition.

HB0679 ignores a growing body of evidence that reveals trans-autistic individuals experience significant reductions in poor mental health and suicidality when provided with gender-affirming care. These improvements can be attributed to greater comfort within one’s body and the validation and hope that accompany acceptance and treatment.

Equating the transgender experience with autism is a serious misrepresentation that undermines both communities. Claims that children are being broadly pressured to transition lacks credible evidence; in reality, transgender youth face significant barriers to care and make medical decisions. Portraying them as victims of widespread coercion disregards their agency and misrepresents established standards of care.

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

For more information please reach out to Charlotte Hoffman (they/she) • Trans Maryland • 317-446-4326 •
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