



House Bill 679

Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors

Oppose

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

We proudly present comments from Marylanders opposing HB679. This legislation would interfere with recommendations from healthcare providers, and patient's rights. Anyone who has gone through the approval process for HRT knows how rigorous the reviews are. This legislation is based in fear and a lack of understanding of basic science.

Public Comments:

Stop ignoring science, let the doctors be doctors and stop telling anyone how to live their lives. I'm a parent of a trans six year old girl, and I will fight for her rights.

– K'lila Nooning, Silver Spring

I am in support of hormone blockers and HRT for all individuals seeking this care. It is basic healthcare that should be provided to all individuals who need it. These decisions should be left up to medical professionals and individuals. They should not be decided by politicians who have no medical training. The negative mental health implications of banning basic medical care far outweigh the cons to providing it.

– Trans Supporter, Silver Spring

Vote no on HB679: families and doctors and transgender children, not legislators, should decide what is best for children's health

– Lisa SL, Columbia

Hormone therapy for minors is 100% is crucial for the mental health and well-being of transgender youth. The decision to use hormone therapy under the age of 18 should be entirely in the hands of the child's parents and their medical team. The government should not have a say in this decision.

Transgender suicide have already risen since this Administration took office in 2025 and the transgender community has been under attack daily. Please do not take life saving medical care away from this vulnerable community. There is only downside to removing this care for minors. There is research from multiple prestigious medical communities, including the NIH, stating that hormone therapy has benefits on trans youth mental health. Why would the government want to take away something that benefits children?

– Carroll County Resident, Hampstead

I oppose these bills and any other bills that target trans kids. These bills infringe on the rights of children and their parents.

– Catonsville Resident

Trans rights are human rights. They belong here. They deserve to have gender affirming health care. It saves lives. And they belong to participate in sports. These bills will harm young individuals who just want to live their lives.

– Kathryn Blanco, Hyattsville

My brother was struggling with severe depression and anxiety, but gender affirming care has helped him branch out more and he is becoming more confident every day. HRT is not something people do for fun, it's health care.

– Natalia Blanco, Adelphi

Inclusion has no exceptions.

– Josue Blaco, Hyattsville

All people are made in the image of God. It is not our job to judge this and make laws targeting trans kids and families, even if you feel iffy about it.

– Levente Sabath, Mount Rainier

Many trans kids become suicidal when gender affirming care is unavailable to them. It's not an easy issue to legislate on. Certainly, careful discernment by the child, parents and health care practitioners is essential. And I believe options need to be legally available.

– Jacqueline Sabath, Mount Rainier

There should never be laws penalizing humans striving to become their truest selves. This represents the ugliest form of persecution and hatred and the state of Maryland must never be part of the evil brought to us by people who revel in hatred and cruelty.

– Elizabeth Broughton, Greenbelt

I oppose HB679 prohibiting hormone therapy for minors. I am the parent of an amazing trans grandson and know the complicated world that he has to navigate without these prohibitions.

– Bob Sabath, Mount Rainer

I'm writing to urge you to oppose HB679.

Laws banning gender-affirming care for transgender youth in the United States are inflicting severe harm on young people and their families.

Thank you for all that you do for your constituents!

– Heather Mitchell-Buck, Jefferson

I'm writing to urge you to oppose HB679.

Laws banning gender-affirming care for transgender youth in the United States are inflicting severe harm on young people and their families.

Thank you for all that you do for your constituents!

– Justin Townsend, Rockville

Regarding HB679 - I am requesting the Health Committee refer to what detrimental impacts we have seen as a result of increased trans youth healthcare bills in recent years.

- Human Rights Watch found that these laws contribute to an increasingly hostile, anti-trans climate, compelling youth to hide their identities and socially withdraw.
- The January 28 executive order under the current administration has caused some clinics to halt services in states where care remains legal.

- Health care providers interviewed by Human Rights Watch regarding the bans said that they had experienced targeted anti-trans harassment. Providers said their institutions have increased their security budgets, diverting funds that could be used for patient care. Civil society organizations reported facing similar threats, alongside rising costs for safety measures.

Bills like HB679 cause unnecessary harm to children and their families, destabilize healthcare providers, promote targeted hate campaigns, and damage communities. I hope every member of the Health Committee will voice firm opposition for this bill and any future iterations of it.

– Elizabeth Estochen, Annapolis

As with any other identity, race, religion, etc we should respect how they want to be seen and support them so they can develop a healthy sense of community and belonging. Separating out trans individuals only reinforces stigma and harm. Let kids be kids and leave their medical decisions between their doctors and guardians. We have more important issues to be prioritizing, like funding our schools and providing support for our homeless population.

– Zoë Dell, Frederick

Oppose Harmful Bills Targeting Trans Kids!

– Peter Sabath, Mount Rainer

I am a professor of U.S. and women's history and I am writing to strongly oppose SB50, HB63, and HB679. These are discriminatory bills that will cause harm to children-- not just trans kids, but cis kids as well. There are many issues of fairness in girls' sports (access to practice spaces, equipment, safe environments, etc.), but NONE of them will be solved by excluding trans kids, who deserve to develop and be part of a team like any other child does. These bills are not rooted in science, facts, or proper care, but rather rooted in ignorance about what it means to be trans and overblown fear and paranoia about a tiny percent of the population that has historically faced incredible levels of discrimination and mistreatment. There are no benefits to society to continually discriminate against any segment of the population.

– Mallory Huard, Frederick

As a clinical social worker working with adolescents and families I have seen the impacts of anxiety, depression and isolation from identity and community first hand. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable when they are not supported in their health needs from mental to physical needs. Being seen and validated for who they are is vital to their mental health and significantly

decreases suicide attempts and completed suicides. This has been proven in multiple studies. One example is as:

Claire A Coyne, Briahna T Yuodsnukis & Diane Chen (2023) Gender Dysphoria: Optimizing Healthcare for Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth with a Multidisciplinary Approach, *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment*, , 479-493, DOI: 10.2147/NDT.S359979

<https://doi.org/10.2147/NDT.S359979>

Working with health care providers who specialize in this area is also vital to support adolescents and families in options and assess what needs exist.

Additionally, we know that participation in community sports and school sports allows teens to feel a sense of belonging, encourages movement and improves mental health outcomes, regardless of identity. That said, given that trans and non binary youth are statistically more likely to be isolated, anxious and depressed, it is even more important for them to have these opportunities during this fragile time in their development. Taking these away will be detrimental to their quality of life.

Thank you for your time in reading this. I urge you to continue allowing access to gender affirming care for youth and allow participation in sports. If you choose otherwise you are responsible for discrimination and harm to this vulnerable group of youth.

– Mental Health Provider, Ellicott City

These bills are harmful to trans children. Actions like these contribute to high rates of depression and suicidality amongst trans youth. Trans youth just want to play sports like their friends. They are not trying to hurt anyone or take anything from other children. Bans on gender affirming care also violate parents' rights to make medical decisions for their children. Please reconsider this terrible legislation. Marylanders support all children, we don't pick and choose.

– Shanta Trivedi, Chevy Chase

Leave trans children alone. Their healthcare is none of the government's business. Give them dignity and let them be parented by their parents not the state.

– Deborah Levi, Stevenson

The science supporting trans care is there. These decisions should be made between the doctor and the family.

–Cynthia Beach, Frederick

Intelligent people follow science. Trans is real. Study the science.

– Byron Warnken, Lutherville Timonium

Don't support anti-trans bills. These bills are pushed by people that are ignorant at best or malicious at worst. The fear mongering over trans people is merely a dividing action to distract from the pedophiles and rapists that actually threaten our children. We don't care nearly as much about problems that kill kids every year (like school shooters, obesity, and cigarettes), maybe we should focus on those instead of wasting government and social time on innocent people?

– Christopher Rider, Frederick

Please oppose any and all bills that oppose the human right of access to health care for all individuals, especially members of our transgender community.

– Tiffany Rodney, Potomac
