

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 Jasper Dempsey. 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). Every major medical association considers age-appropriate transition-related care medically-necessary, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the Endocrine Society, the Federation of Pediatric Organizations, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, and more.

The American Medical Association states that trans and non-binary gender identities are normal variations of human identity and expression. HB0679 would deny gender-affirming care which can have tragic health consequences, both mental and physical, as well as ignoring every major medical association's insistence that this care is medically-necessary.

For some, living in their "assigned sex at birth" body is mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually demoralizing. Gender-affirming care should be an available resource to youth who during puberty are going through developments that don't feel aligned with their spirit. Having spent most of my life in a body that hasn't felt like mine, I wish that as a teenager I had access to gender-affirming support, resources, and 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 • Charlotte@TransMaryland.org