



TESTIMONY FOR HB1380 – Health Insurance – Prescriptions for Gender-Affirming Care and Hormone Therapy – Coverage and Dispensing Requirements – FAVORABLE

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Fair

Committee: Health

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Jessica Gorski, Executive Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Gorski, and I am submitting this testimony in support of HB1380 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations representing more than 30,000 Marylanders across every legislative district. Our mission is to ensure that state policy protects people’s lives, health, and dignity, especially Marylanders' access to medically necessary, evidence-based care without unnecessary barriers or delays.

HB1380 strengthens that commitment by requiring insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for a specified supply of prescription drugs used for gender-affirming care, hormone therapy, and reproductive health in certain circumstances. The bill also updates the amounts of certain prescription drugs that a pharmacist may dispense, effective January 1, 2027.

These protections are urgently needed.

Gender-affirming care and hormone therapy are essential, evidence-based medical treatments recognized by every major medical association. Yet many Marylanders continue to face inconsistent coverage, restrictive dispensing limits, and administrative barriers that delay or interrupt care. These disruptions can have serious consequences for physical and mental health, as well as overall well-being. HB1380 closes these gaps by ensuring that:

- Coverage for gender-affirming and hormone-related prescriptions is consistent and reliable.
- Patients can access an adequate supply of medications without unnecessary refill burdens.
- Pharmacists have clear authority to dispense updated quantities beginning in 2027.
- Insurers cannot impose arbitrary restrictions that undermine continuity of care.

These measures create a more stable, predictable system that supports patients and providers alike.

HB1380 also has significant implications for healthcare access and equity. Interruptions in hormone therapy can lead to medical complications, emotional distress, and destabilization of treatment plans. For transgender and nonbinary Marylanders, who already face disproportionate barriers to care, ensuring consistent access to medication is essential for health, safety, and dignity. By requiring coverage and updating dispensing rules, HB1380 helps reduce disparities, supports continuity of care, and strengthens Maryland's commitment to inclusive, patient-centered healthcare.

This bill aligns squarely with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. It promotes equity, protects medically necessary care, and ensures that Maryland's healthcare system upholds the highest standards of fairness and dignity. No Marylander should face delays, denials, or disruptions in accessing gender-affirming or reproductive health medications.

We respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on HB1380.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica Gorski
Executive Committee
Maryland Legislative Coalition