

Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is Brandon Russell, and I am a resident of Maryland. **I am writing in opposition to HB 679, and I urge an unfavorable report on this bill.**

Government should not intervene in decisions made by patients and their families in consultation with their care provider. It's as simple as that.

Delegate Matt Morgan, who represents my district, is a co-sponsor on this bill. Several years ago, Delegate Morgan supported efforts to push back against healthcare mandates from the government during the COVID-19 pandemic. Just last year, Delegate Morgan sponsored a bi-partisan bill, HB11, that expanded healthcare access. Those efforts seemed emblematic of support for choice and privacy in medical decisionmaking.

According to the fiscal report, HB 679 could increase costs for the State budget because of requirements for charging and imprisoning medical providers who are treating their patients. Taxpayer dollars, nearly \$6,000 per person per month, should not be used for this purpose.

I'm hopeful Delegate Morgan will rethink support for this bill, and join the Committee in issuing an **unfavorable report on HB679.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Brandon Russell
Leonardtown, MD
brandon4stmarys@gmail.com