

As a Maryland resident, and a Democrats for an Informed Approach to Gender supporter, **I am strongly in favor of House Bill 679**, which prohibits licensed health care practitioners from providing cross-sex hormone therapy to minors for treating gender-nonconformity or gender dysphoria. This bill safeguards vulnerable children and adolescents from potentially irreversible medical interventions during a developmental period when many gender-related distresses resolve naturally. Rushing minors into hormone treatments—that do not have robust long-term data on safety or outcomes—risks their physical and psychological health. Protecting minors from these interventions upholds their right to an open future and prioritizes non-invasive, exploratory approaches to gender distress over medicalization. Please protect children and don't abandon them to unproven, dangerous medical experimentation!