



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

To: Delegate Heather Bagnall, Chair, Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Health Committee
From: Kari Alperovitz Bichell, MD, MPH
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry-Maryland
Date: February 18, 2025

I am Kari Alperovitz-Bichell, MD, representing myself both as a physician, and as a person of faith on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

We urge you to **OPPOSE HB 679- Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors**. This bill would prohibit physicians from prescribing hormones to Trans youth. Both the American Medical Association and the American Pediatric Association have stated evidence-based positions that this kind of care has an important role for children and youth who suffer from gender dysphoria.

As a primary care physician, I have provided gender affirming treatment. I have seen first hand how gender affirming care can be lifesaving. You wouldn't bar physicians from prescribing antidepressants or other needed psychiatric medicines to alleviate the mental health suffering for non-trans youth. How can we deny this life-saving treatment to children who are trans?

As a Unitarian Universalist I am called by the first principle of our faith to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every human being, that includes trans youth. We must hold to the principle that patients, their families and their physicians — not politicians — should be the ones to make decisions together about what care is best for each youth.”

I urge you to search your heart and oppose HB 679.

Sincerely,
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