

Testimony on House Bill HB679 – Unfavorable
HB679 – Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors
House – Heath Committee
February 16, 2026

Dear Members of the Health Committee,

My name is Michelle Koul, and I am a constituent of District 31. I am writing **to oppose HB679 – Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors.**

As a biological woman, I am very aware of the harm and legal chaos that occurs when legislators mistake themselves for medical professionals. Standards of care should be based on scientific evidence, training, and experience rather than political or ideological agendas. Legislation of this kind can be, and should be, challenged on medical, ethical, and legal grounds.¹

Major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association, recognize gender-affirming care as medically necessary and evidence-based. Research shows that access to hormone therapy is associated with 60% lower odds of moderate-to-severe depression and 73% lower odds of self-harm or suicidal thoughts over a 12-month period.²

Bans on care are linked to devastating psychological outcomes for transgender and nonbinary youth:

- **Increased Suicidality:** A 2024 Trevor Project study found that suicide attempt rates among transgender youth increased by as much as 72% in the first year after states adopted anti-transgender laws.
- **Fear and Anxiety:** The mere existence of such legislation increases feelings of isolation, anxiety, and fear among youth, even those who currently retain access to care.

And if the well-being of children is not your concern, and you still claim to be a fan of the constitution, these bans violate the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause, which protects the right of parents to make decisions regarding their children's upbringing and medical care. This ban violates the Equal Protection Clause by allowing the same banned medications to be used for other conditions (like precocious puberty), which constitutes discrimination based on sex and transgender status.

In summary, these bans hurt children, and intrudes into a family's private life, preventing them from following a course of treatment agreed upon by their medical team and are outright discriminatory. Please submit an **unfavorable** report on **HB679 – Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors.**

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Dr. Michelle Koul (she/her)
Severna Park, MD 21146

¹ <https://bioethicstoday.org/blog/bans-on-gender-affirming-care-for-minors-are-morally-wrong/#:~:text=But%20these%20bans%20don't,t%20consent%20to%20medical%20treatment.>

² <https://sph.washington.edu/news-events/sph-blog/benefits-gender-affirming-care#:~:text=A%20study%20published%20in%20JAMA,well%20being%20for%20trans%20youth.>