

HB1380_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#1380 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Health Insurance - Prescriptions for Gender-Affirming Care and Hormone Therapy - Coverage and Dispensing Requirements

TO: Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1380, Health Insurance - Prescriptions for Gender-Affirming Care and Hormone Therapy - Coverage and Dispensing Requirements

This bill is a direct response to the actions of the Federal Administration's attempt to remove gender-affirming healthcare from all trans persons in the United States.

Federal restrictions on gender-affirming care have escalated significantly following executive actions in early 2025, with the administration focusing on cutting federal funding for hospitals that provide such care to minors and excluding coverage in federal programs. These measures, largely aimed at children and teenagers under 19, are being implemented through Executive Orders and proposed regulatory changes by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
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Maryland believes in the dignity and worth of every individual and that science-based healthcare must be provided to every resident.

The purpose of this bill is requiring insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for a certain supply of prescription drugs used for gender-affirming care, hormone therapy, or reproductive health in certain circumstances; and altering the amount of certain prescription drugs that a pharmacist is allowed to dispense on or after January 1, 2027.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1380.

¹ Google AI Search "Federal restrictions on Gender-Affirming Care"