

The Honorable Chair
Delegate Heather Bagnall
Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: OPPOSITION of House Bill 0679
Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors**

To the Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and esteemed members of the Health Committee,

My name is Nooria Ahmed and I am a resident of Baltimore City]. I am writing to name my opposition to House Bill 0679 Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors. Every major medical association considers age-appropriate transition-related care medically-necessary, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the Endocrine Society, the Federation of Pediatric Organizations, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, and more.

The American Medical Association states that trans and non-binary gender identities are normal variations of human identity and expression. HB0679 would deny gender-affirming care which can have tragic health consequences, both mental and physical, as well as ignoring every major medical association's insistence that this care is medically-necessary

As a transgender woman, I can personally attest to how life saving HRT can be. For the longest time, I thought I would be dead by 25. I tried to take my own life twice as a teenager due to extreme dysphoria and the deep social stigma that comes with it. I'm 26 years old now. I'm happy. I have a future. I'm a teacher. And I see many of my transgender students struggling in the exact same way I was. I do my best to support them, but the banning of HRT would cause their quality of life to drastically decline. I want all of my students to live happy and fulfilling lives. I want all my students to know that they are not alone, that they can overcome the obstacles in their way and find joy and success in the future. I want my students to *have* futures. This bill would ensure that some of my students will never make it that far.

So for the sake of my community as a transgender woman and for the sake of my students as a teacher, for these reasons and many more, **I ask the Health Committee to give HB0679 an unfavorable report.**

-Nooria Ahmed 21218 (Members of the committee, feel free to contact me at nooriyahmed@gmail.com if you would like to reach out about any of this, I'd be happy to elaborate as needed)