
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: Health

Bill Number: House Bill 679 - Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

Position: Unfavorable

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) opposes *House Bill 679- Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors*. This bill would remove established, regulated pathways for care and replace them with a blanket prohibition preventing licensed professionals from following established standards of care.

House bill 679 directly conflicts with the standards of care recognized by major medical and mental health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the Endocrine Society. These organizations agree that gender-affirming care, including hormone therapy; is evidence-based, safe, and medically necessary for many transgender adolescents. When care is delayed or denied, young people experience higher rates of mental health distress, social withdrawal, and avoidable suicidality.

Planned Parenthood of Maryland provides gender-affirming care to transgender patients ages 16 and over, working closely with families and licensed clinicians to ensure treatment is safe, developmentally appropriate, and aligned with established medical standards. House Bill 679 would harm transgender youth, undermine clinical practice, and interfere with the ability of patients, families and licensed providers to make informed, evidence-based decisions about care. For transgender youth, timely access to gender-affirming care can be critical. HB 679 threatens to disrupt continuity of care for youth receiving treatment by interfering with family decision-making.

For our patients, this is not theoretical; interrupting or denying care would cause immediate harm, destabilizing treatment plans, and force families to seek care out of state. HB 679 would not improve safety, patient outcomes or oversight. Instead, it would prohibit clinicians from providing care and patients from undergoing lifesaving treatment.

We ask for an unfavorable report on HB 679. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Vice President of Public Affairs, Erin Bradley, at erin.bradley@ppm.care.