

Written Testimony for HB 679 *Health Occupations - Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors*
(UNF)

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I am writing to express my opposition to HB 679. The bigotry of this dangerous bill is evident in its stipulation that hormone therapy treatment be banned for cases of gender dysphoria. Hormone treatment and gender-affirming care routinely and uncontroversially accessed by cisgender minors are not targeted by this bill.

As with all medical decisions, there are potential risks and trade-offs to treatment, to be weighed against potential benefits in consultations between patients, guardians, and medical professionals. What sets hormone treatment for gender dysphoria apart from many other medical treatments, is the clarity with which the data supports making it accessible. Suicide rates for youth for whom access to gender-affirming care has been denied are extremely high, with studies showing up to a 72% increase in suicidality in states with anti-Trans legislation. Regret rates for receiving gender-affirming care are staggering low—between less than 1% to less than 6% based on surveys targeted at specific levels of treatment.

This legislation, if passed, will lead to an increase in self-harm and death for an already vulnerable population. It would constitute blatant overreach by the state into private medical decisions, setting a disturbing precedent. It represents a ridiculous waste of taxpayer resources at a time when there is no shortage of other, more acute issues affecting Marylanders.