

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 Collin Kilgore, and I am a resident of Baltimore, Maryland. 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

One of the core tenants of the Hippocratic Oath that I and all other healthcare providers take when pursuing this profession is to alleviate suffering. As a current medical student at Johns Hopkins University, I have seen first-hand the impact the suffering that is caused by imposing arbitrary barriers to care for transgender people. Transition-related care, including hormones, is effective, safe, well-tested, and greatly alleviates suffering in those experiencing gender dysphoria. This bill would mark a death sentence for young Marylanders in very immediate distress.

For these reasons and many more, **I ask the Health Committee to give HB0679 an unfavorable report.**