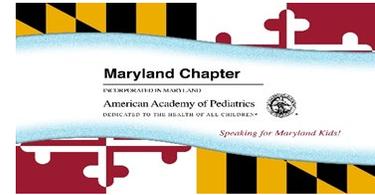




The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org



House Health Committee
February 18, 2026

House Bill 679 – *Health Occupations – Cross-Sex Hormone Therapy for Minors*
POSITION: OPPOSE

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 679.

House Bill 679 would prohibit licensed health care practitioners from prescribing, dispensing, or administering “cross-sex hormones,” or providing “cross-sex hormone therapy,” to a minor for the treatment of a mental health diagnosis associated with gender nonconformity, including gender dysphoria.

Gender dysphoria is a recognized medical condition that can cause significant distress for patients and their families. Many patients benefit from careful monitoring, social transition, or the use of puberty-blocking medications. However, there are cases in which the prescription of gender-affirming hormones is clinically appropriate and medically necessary.

These treatments, when indicated, are supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, the American Medical Association, and the American Psychological Association. Additionally, the Endocrine Society, representing more than 18,000 hormone specialists worldwide, endorses evidence-based Gender-Affirming Care Guidelines that include the appropriate use of gender-affirming hormones for minors under specific clinical circumstances.

A blanket prohibition on prescribing these medications is not medically sound and would place vulnerable patients at increased risk by preventing clinicians from providing evidence-based care.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to oppose House Bill 679.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000