

District 7A

RYAN NAWROCKI  
410-841-3289 · 301-858-3289  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3289  
Ryan.Nawrocki@house.state.md.us

KATHY SZELIGA  
410-841-3698 · 301-858-3698  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3698  
Kathy.Szeliga@house.state.md.us



District 7B

LAUREN ARIKAN  
410-841-3334 · 310-858-3334  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3334  
Lauren.Arikan@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 7  
BALTIMORE AND HARFORD COUNTIES

**Annapolis, MD – May 5, 2023** - A bill passed through the Maryland House and Senate in Annapolis to use taxpayer money on transgender treatments for children and adults called the Trans Health Equity Act. It was signed into law by Governor Wes Moore this week. Many states have passed laws prohibiting physical and hormone treatments for anyone under 18. The delegates support mental health services and counseling for youth who are experiencing gender dysphoria; however, they strongly oppose any physical alterations to anyone under 18 years old and using taxpayer money to perform these lifelong medical treatments and procedures on anyone. The bill passed along party lines with the delegates and their fellow Republicans voting no and Democrats supporting it. An amendment was offered to limit this to people 18 and older. It also failed along party lines.

Johns Hopkins Hospital, Franklin Square Hospital, and the University of Maryland Hospital are among Maryland hospitals that have departments and physicians who perform transgender treatments for children through adults.

The treatments included in this bill include puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, plastic surgery for facial and neck features to be more masculine or feminine, shaving off Adam's apples, voice lessons, laser hair removal, mastectomies, hysterectomies, and other radical surgeries to the top and bottom part of a male and female too graphic to describe. Additionally, the law includes a reversal of any of those surgeries should a person change their mind.

Delegate Kathy Szeliga who serves on the Health and Government Operations Committee that heard the bill said, "It is truly heartbreaking that lawmakers approved radical, often experimental, surgeries and medical castration to children under 18 years old. And taxpayers foot the bill."

There are a growing number of people who are called de-transitioners. These are people who took physical steps to change their bodies that now regret those decisions and are changing back to their biological gender. Delegate Lauren Arikan commented saying, "The bill includes taxpayer money to provide treatments, including surgeries, to people who regret transitioning and want to return to their biological gender. This is proof in point that the medical community recognizes that this de-transitioning trend is taking place."

The claim that performing the so-called gender-affirming treatment prevents suicide or provides a positive psychological impact is simply untrue. There are no credible long-term studies to prove these claims. The studies that have been done show that 85% of children who question their gender who are given only talk therapy are happy with their biological gender by the time they are adults. Delegate Ryan Nawrocki agreed saying, "Never in human history have there been experiments on children at this scale. Some in the medical community are experimenting on children with surgeries and pharmaceuticals that often leave children sterile. We are also seeing efforts in Annapolis to exclude parents from mental and physical health treatments given to their children who question their gender."

The delegates assert that children do not have the ability to make life-altering decisions that will castrate, butcher, or mutilate them. It is the delegates' most solemn responsibility to protect children and ensure that parents are required to be involved in these decisions.

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