

FAQ on Testifying in Favor of the Trans Health Equity Act of 2023

Deadlines

1. For the House:

- Submit written testimony and/or sign up for oral testimony on **Friday, 2/10 from 8 am – 3 pm**
 - [Link to sign up](#)
 - If you are interested in speaking at the hearing, please let us know! We're coordinating speakers.
- The hearing will be in-person on 2/14 starting at 1:00 pm in front of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

2. For the Senate:

- Submit written testimony and/or sign up for oral testimony on **Monday, 2/27 from 8 am – 3 pm**
 - [Link to sign up](#)
 - If you are interested in speaking at the hearing, please let us know! We're coordinating speakers.
- The hearing will be in-person on 2/28 starting at 1:00 pm in front of the Senate Finance Committee

Questions to think about for testimony

- Introduce yourself - What do you want legislators to know about you and your experience in relation to the bill topic?
- What are the barriers that you or other trans people face to accessing healthcare insurance coverage?
- In what ways have you or the communities you serve struggled because of Medicaid's limited coverage for gender-affirming care?
- What joy/positivity would the bill passing bring to your life?
- Why do you care about this bill? How would it impact you?
- What unique viewpoint can you bring to this issue?
- What personal stories, facts, and/or data do you have to share?

How to title written testimony

- At the top, include this information:
 - Whether you support the bill and the bill number
 - Name of Committee hearing the bill
 - Date of the hearing
 - "Testimony of [your name, your organization if any]"
- Example:
 - SUPPORT - HB 283
 - House Health and Government Operations Committee
 - February 14, 2023
 - Testimony of [your name], [your organization, if any]

- Title the document with the bill number, your name, and position
 - Ex. “SB XXX_[your name]_fav” or “HB 283_[your name]_fav”
- There is an example of written testimony on the last page of this document

How to submit written testimony

- Save your testimony as a pdf
- Submit your testimony on My MGA
 - Go to <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>
 - Click the “My MGA” icon in the very top right corner of the webpage.
 - Click “Create a MyMGA tracking account”
 - Enter your information in the fields (name, email...)
 - Click the “Register” button
 - Go to your email to confirm your account by clicking the link in the email. Sign in using the account information you created.
 - Log into your My MGA account
 - Click “Witness Signup” from the menu on the left
 - Once you find your bill #, click the “Position” drop down to choose “Favorable”. Click the “Testimony” drop down to click “Written”. Then you just need to click “Upload File” and select the file from your computer. *Click “Save”* when you are finished.
 - Your testimony file must be a PDF. If you have it as a word document, you can “save as” in the format PDF.
- You can watch a video tutorial [here](#)
- Tip: submit early so if you have any issues you can reach out for help
 - If you have issues, feel free to reach out to Sam Williamson at 410-656-8364

Testimony in Support of HB 283

Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment
Trans Health Equity Act of 2023
Health and Government Operations Committee
February 14, 2023

[Your Name]

[Your Town/District in Maryland]

[Your organization or group, if any]

Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the chance to testify in support of House Bill 283.

I believe that HB 283 is important because...

Why do you care about this bill? Why should they pass this bill?

What experiences can you share about this issue? Provide examples using lots of details.

How would this bill fix problems in your life and the lives of others?

End with a call to action!

Please do what you can to support this community/fix this issue.

I strongly urge you to support HB 283.

Thank you for your consideration,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]