

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

Testimony regarding HB 4088

I am a transgender woman who is also a healthcare worker as a registered nurse. I have been accessing healthcare for gender affirming services for the past 10 years and have had my share of biases and assumptions about what I need for healthcare. Over those years, I have had to educate and explain to the providers that give me access to my HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy) why it is necessary. For many like myself, there are many hurdles to obtaining that first initial visit to start gender affirming care, such as: obtaining the proper diagnosis, getting therapist approval for the process, getting provider approval for the process, being scrutinized about the need for HRT, explaining that if this access does not happen I will fall into a deep depression and ultimately attempt suicide. The process to which transgender people, like myself, have to go through to get access to proper healthcare is difficult, however much needed. The current political climate is putting all of us in this class under risk of loss of healthcare access.

Currently, transgender people are the hot topic of the conservative movement to attempt to control people and the choices they have with their livelihoods. Much like it has been for gay people in 90s, black people throughout our country's history, women for wanting to vote and have a voice, and the indigenous people just wanting to survive. All of us have a right to have control over the life that we live and to be comfortable in that life, without different sets of rules because of who we are. Our differences make us stronger as a people, and our rights should not be taken away or limited because it might make someone uncomfortable. Being uncomfortable is okay, as long as there is a dialogue to gain understanding. What is not okay is instead of communication, there is a push for preventing people to be who they are and limiting access to a human right.

What HB 4088 will do will affirm to the people that access to healthcare is a human right, and should be applied to everyone. As a registered nurse, I take care of anyone who needs it, regardless of their background, political view, race, orientation, or age. I respect the rule of healthcare being for all the people, even if I don't agree with how they choose to express themselves and live their life. I want my access to healthcare not be determinate on those same pretenses.