

June 25, 2019

Via FedEx and Email

Governor J.B. Pritzker
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph, 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: Proposed Regulations Addressing Illinois Medicaid Coverage for Surgical Treatment of Gender Dysphoria

Dear Governor Pritzker:

As advocates and medical providers, we wish to applaud you and your administration's commitment to LGBTQ issues. We especially commend the decision to remove the Medicaid coverage exclusion for surgical treatment of gender dysphoria, which is harmful and discriminatory. Only eight remaining state Medicaid programs exclude transition-related care from coverage, with Maine adopting an emergency rule to remove its exclusion this Friday, June 21. Illinois now has the opportunity to ensure its reputation as the most affirming state in the country for LGBTQ people.

As you may know, to achieve that mission, the proposed regulations must be revised. In their current form, the proposed regulations contradict medical standards for treatment of gender dysphoria and would result in many transgender individuals being prevented from accessing lifesaving medical care. Further, the proposed regulations create a barrier between patients and medical providers. Due to the many limitations and restrictions, the proposed regulations would prevent individuals from receiving healthcare that their medical provider has deemed to be medically necessary. Many of us already have shared our concerns in meetings and letters with your administration and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services ("IDHFS"), as well as in formal written comments. We urge your administration to consider our recommendations for how to make Illinois Medicaid a model policy for the rest of the country.

We thank you for your continued support of the LGBTQ community, as well as for your administration's significant time and attention to this matter. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information that would be helpful as you and your administration consider amendments to the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

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cc: Director Theresa Eagleson
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