



Outlaw discrimination in Virginia health insurance: Support HB 1466

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

- The bill prohibits health carriers from denying or limiting coverage for health care services based on gender identity or transgender status.

THE FACTS:

- In 2015, nearly one quarter (23%) of transgender Virginians faced a problem with their insurance related to being transgender, such as being denied coverage for medically necessary transition-related care.¹
- In 2015, nearly one in three (31%) of those who saw a health care provider faced mistreatment or discrimination in a health care setting because they were transgender.²
- 18 states plus DC have already adopted laws or regulations that protect transgender people from insurance discrimination. The federal government has acted to eliminate these exclusions in private insurance, in Medicare, and for military service members and other federal employees.

WHY WE SUPPORT IT:

- **Nondiscrimination protections make healthy Virginians** – These protections ensure access to medically necessary care for all Virginians. Every major medical association agrees that transition-related care is medically necessary and should not be excluded from health insurance.
- **Nondiscrimination protections just make good business sense** – Studies show that they have no impact on health care premiums. All major carriers already sell numerous products without transgender exclusions due to employer demand. Half of Fortune 500 employers already have inclusive health plans, as do numerous universities, cities, counties, and states.

Equality Virginia is the statewide advocacy organization seeking equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Virginians. Together we will create a Virginia that is a safe, welcoming, and equal place for LGBT individuals and their families to live, work, and play. More information is online at EqualityVirginia.org. Connect on [Facebook.com/EqualityVA](https://www.facebook.com/EqualityVA) or Twitter @EqualityVA.

¹ <https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Full-Report-Dec17.pdf>

² <https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Full-Report-Dec17.pdf>