Washington Blade, DC, USA

February 6, 2018 at 4:17 pm EST | by Michael K. Lavers

Anti-trans health insurance discrimination bill defeated in Va.

A Virginia House of Delegates subcommittee on Tuesday tabled a bill that would have banned health insurance providers from discriminating against transgender policyholders in the state.

State Del. Debra Rodman (D-Henrico County) introduced House Bill 1466 last month. State Del. Danica Roem (D-Manassas), who is the first openly trans person seated in a state legislature in the U.S., was the measure's chief co-sponsor.

"Everyone deserves access to medically necessary care no matter their gender presentation," wrote Rodman on her Twitter page after the committee tabled her bill. "We won't stop until we get it."

Equality Virginia Executive Director James Parrish in a statement to the Washington Blade said trans people, "like everyone else, deserve to live their lives without healthcare providers denying or limiting coverage because of gender identity."

"We are disappointed that the Commerce and Labor subcommittee defeated Del. Rodman's bill despite the recommendation of every major medical association who stand in agreement that transition-related care is medically necessary and should not be excluded from health insurance," he added. "18 states plus D.C. have already adopted laws or regulations that protect transgender people from insurance discrimination, and we hope that soon Virginia will join them."

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia CEO Jennifer Allen also criticized the vote.

"No person should be denied health insurance coverage because of who they are. However, transgender patients often face barrier after barrier when seeking health care," she said. "We are disappointed that conservative delegates defeated HB 1466 that would have eliminated health insurance discrimination against transgender individuals."

[Debra Rodman](#) [@debrarodman73](#)

The testimony on HB1466 proves we need to take action to prohibit discrimination in our health insurance system. Everyone deserves access to medically necessary care no matter their gender presentation, and we won't stop until we get it. [#TransRights](#) [#HumanRights](#)

[3:18 PM - Feb 6, 2018](#)

http://www.washingtonblade.com/2018/02/06/va-house-subcommittee-defeats-anti-trans-health-insurance-discrimination-bill/