

February 24, 2020

Dear Chairman Davis,

We are writing on behalf of Metro DC PFLAG in support of HB1147. This bill would require that singleoccupancy public restrooms be marked with gender-inclusive signage. This would provide a safe and accessible public restroom for anyone, regardless of gender. We believe in creating welcoming and accepting spaces for everyone, including public accommodations for transgender and gender-expansive individuals.

Sex-segregated bathrooms can be dangerous places for someone who identifies outside of the binary or anywhere on the gender spectrum. According to a study done by the National Center for Transgender Equality, more than 60% of transgender individuals avoid the use of public bathrooms out of fear of harassment and ridicule. The transgender community deserves the same rights and safety as anyone else. Something so simple as using a public bathroom can be the source of immense anxiety and fear for a community already at great risk.

Single-occupancy bathrooms not only benefit transgender people but can also accommodate single mothers, young children, families, and those with disabilities that require a larger stall. Occupying public spaces is something we all take for granted until we enter a space that is not meant for us. Using public bathrooms comfortably and safely is something we should all have access to.

We urge you to support The Accessible to All Act and make public spaces more inclusive for everyone.

We believe that together, we can achieve equality for all.

Thank you,

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Metro DC PFLAG

Board President

Metro DC PFLAG

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MD Advocacy Chair

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Metro DC PFLAG

MD Advocacy Chair

www.pflagdc.org Keeping Families Together!

Metro DC PFLAG is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, volunteer organization founded in 1983 and oversees sixteen (16) PFLAG Community Groups across Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia. As a chapter of PFLAG, we strive to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and their families and friends through support, education, and advocacy to end discrimination and secure equal rights.