

Testimony Concerning HB 1010
“Health Care Facilities – Discrimination (LGBTQ Senior Bill of Rights)”
Submitted to The House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 5, 2020

Position: Support

Dear Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Tanya Mikhael; I am a masters level nursing student at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. I write to you in support of House Bill 1010.

Prior to beginning nursing school, I worked in the mental health field where most of my work involved providing therapy and resources for older adults living in assisted living facilities. Through this work, I have personally witnessed first-hand the mistreatment and discrimination of older LGBTQ+ elders. Currently, in my fourth semester of nursing school for my public health rotation I am working with LGBTQ+ older adults on variety of health and psychosocial issues at Chase Brexton. Through my communication with these elders, I have come to know intimately the types of violence they have had to endure in healthcare facilities where their rights are not protected.

As a young 27-year-old professional who is working towards a nurse practitioner degree in adult and gerontological care the issue of mistreatment of older adults, specially LGBTQ+ elders, is something I feel very passionate about. House Bill 1010 will provide LGBTQ+ elders with the safe spaces that they deserve and prevent further discrimination.

I appreciate the work that you do and I urge you to support House Bill 1010 to protect LGBTQ seniors from discrimination.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tanya Mikhael