

**PPM\_FAV\_SB 401**

Uploaded by: Elliott, Robyn

Position: FAV



330 N. Howard Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
(410) 576-1400  
[www.plannedparenthood.org/maryland](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/maryland)

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland

**Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**Bill Number: SB 401**

**Title: Places of Accommodation and Public Buildings – Single Occupancy Public Restrooms – Availability (Accessible to All Act)**

**Hearing Date: February 12, 2020**

**Position: Support**

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Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *Senate Bill 401 – Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings – Single – Occupancy Public Restrooms – Availability (The Accessible to All Act)*. This bill would require single-occupancy public restrooms in a public building to be marked with gender-inclusive signage that does not use pictorial representation and contains only descriptive language.

Restrooms that are accessible to all provide a welcoming space for everyone, including nursing mothers, individuals with disabilities, and parents of young children. They also protect gender neutral and transgender citizens from harassment. Non-gendered restrooms already exist in many places, and are required in Baltimore City, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia, among others. Complying with the bill is easy, and offers a practical way to make all feel welcome and safe.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

# **Bump&Grind\_FAV\_SB 0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



David Fogel  
Bump 'n Grind  
1200 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

February 9, 2020

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
SB 401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee and the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I would like to convey my full support for SB 401 (The Accessible To All Act). This bill will require that single-occupancy public restrooms be made accessible to everyone with gender-inclusive signage. As owner and founder of Bump 'n Grind coffee and vinyl record shop in Silver Spring, MD, I have found having restrooms that are marked with gender-inclusive signage has been a benefit to my business, customers, and community.

Bump 'n Grind has been serving as a gathering place for the South Silver Spring neighborhood for over five years. We host many groups from the community as well as live musical performances and many other events. It's important that we are welcoming to the full diversity of our neighbors including parents, elders, caregivers, people with disabilities, and gender diverse people. We have found gender neutral restrooms help us meet this goal, and we have also experienced reduced waiting times for facilities since installing gender neutral signage.

Neighboring Washington, DC has very successfully required single-occupancy public restrooms to be available to people of all genders beginning in 2006. In the years since, cities such as Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City have followed suit,

along with states such as California, Illinois, and Vermont. The Fairness for All Marylanders Act of 2014 prohibited discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression in places of public accommodation, and this bill will bring our public restrooms into accordance with the spirit and intent of that act. The Accessible To All Act will provide for a more equitable, fair, and welcoming State of Maryland.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

David Fogel  
Owner, Founder

# **Caveney\_FAV\_SB0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV

## ***Trans Recognition Maryland***

Cass Caveney  
Silver Spring, Maryland

February 12, 2020

### **SB 401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings – Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms – Availability (The Accessible to All Act)**

#### **SUPPORT**

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee and the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

On behalf of Trans Recognition Maryland, a network of nonbinary and transgender individuals across Maryland, I strongly support SB 401 (The Accessible To All Act), which will require single-occupancy public restrooms in public buildings and places of public accommodation to have signage that does not restrict access on the basis of gender. This bill is a common sense solution to address some of the challenges of restroom access for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals as well as parents and guardians who need to assist their children, and people with disabilities who need assistance from their caretakers or loved ones.

There is no reason that single-occupancy restrooms ever need to be restricted to one gender. No one is even inconvenienced – indeed, by having more options for everyone, wait times will be diminished and efficiency improved. As noted in the Fiscal and Policy Note for SB 401, the costs of new restroom signage are minimal and can easily be absorbed into exist budgets.

The consequences of placing barriers to restroom access, however, can be quite severe and the need for change is urgent. According to the most recent comprehensive survey of Maryland transgender residents<sup>1</sup>, “58% of respondents avoided using a public restroom in the past year because they were afraid of confrontations or other problems they might experience.” Moreover, “34% of respondents limited the amount that they ate or drank to avoid using the restroom.” According to the same

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<sup>1</sup> 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey – Maryland State Report  
<https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/USTS%20MD%20State%20Report.pdf>

survey, 9% reported being verbally harassed trying to access a restroom, and 7% reported being denied access. The Fairness for All Marylanders Act of 2014 sought to address these kinds of issues by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression in places of public accommodation, and this bill will help bring public restrooms better into line with the intent of that act.

Nearby, Washington, DC has required single-occupancy public restrooms be gender neutral since 2006 and it's made a noticeable difference for those of us who spend time there. Having more options and less to fear contributes to increased freedom and peace of mind. This bill will help make sure the same is true across Maryland as well. Indeed, cities and states across the country have been following suit including Philadelphia, New York City, Austin, TX, Portland, OR, Vermont, Illinois, and California. Even here in Maryland, Baltimore implemented this requirement last year. The 2021 International Plumbing Code requires that single-occupancy restrooms have signage that does not limit access by gender<sup>2</sup>, so this bill bring Maryland into line with these standards.

Because residents of Maryland who are transgender, gender non-conforming, or in need of caretaker assistance deserve the same access to public restrooms as other Maryland residents, I respectfully urge this committee to issue a **favorable report for Senate Bill 401**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cass Caveney

Trans Recognition Maryland

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<sup>2</sup> Buildings. "All-Gender Restrooms Now Comply with Code" by Janelle Penny (April 2,2019)  
<https://www.buildings.com/news/industry-news/articleid/21927/title/all-gender-restrooms-now-comply-with-code>



**Cured\_FAV\_SB 0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV

Vincent J. Culotta  
Cured / 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>  
10980 Grantchester Way  
Columbia MD, 21044

Senate Committee on Judicial Proceedings  
Education, Health, and Economic Affairs Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21041

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**RE: SUPPORT for SB0401, Testimony in support of the bill requiring single-use public restrooms to be designated for use by all genders**

Dear Chairperson Smith and Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

As Managing Partner of Cured / 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, I strongly support SB0401 - Accessibility to All Act, which would require that single-occupancy restrooms be available to persons of any gender identity and associated signage be gender-inclusive. As a state, I believe we should strive to create public accommodations which are inclusive for all Marylanders.

Cured / 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> has been operating with gender inclusive restrooms for nearly two years and all restrooms in our establishment are available to all genders with signs which simply read "Restroom." Our guests have overwhelmingly responded positively to our use of single occupancy gender neutral restrooms. Not only do they allow for diminished wait times, they also allows parents to accompany their children and caregivers to easily assist people for whom they are responsible for in the restroom, regardless of gender.

More than a dozen municipalities, including Baltimore, Washington, DC and five states have also enacted similar laws. This is good for Maryland and good for business. We are committed to providing accessibility for all of our customers.

**I strongly urge a favorable report on SB0401.**

Respectfully,

Vincent J. Culotta  
Managing Partner Cured / 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> LLC

# **Frederick Books Center\_FAV\_SB 0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV

**In support of SB 401 Restroom Access Bill**

Corrine Wilson

Frederick Book Arts Center

217 West Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21701

January 29, 2020

As the Communications Director of the Frederick Book Arts Center, I and my organization are writing to show support for SB 401, Accessible to All Act – Restroom Bill. This Bill would require that any single-occupancy restroom be available to all regardless of gender.

The Frederick Book Arts Center is a newly established art center in Frederick, MD and currently we have two single occupancy restrooms. Only one of our restrooms is ADA compliant; this alone, already mandates that we make both restrooms available to all. Additionally, a large percentage of the people that frequent our space are women, and by allowing them access to both restrooms we cut down on wait times, which allows them a quick return to their classes.

We have people of all ages frequent our space, individuals and families, and we have only ever had good feedback about having two genderless single-occupancy restrooms. We urge you to pass this Bill; it is a simple transition that is convenient to all.

Sincerely,

Corrine Wilson

Communications Director

**FSJ\_FAV\_SB 0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



2526 SAINT PAUL STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD 21218  
TEL (410) 625-LGBT (5428)  
FAX (410) 625-7423  
www.freestate-justice.org

**Bill:** SB0401  
**Title:** The Accessible to All Act  
**Date:** February 12, 2020  
**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings & Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs  
Committees  
**Position:** Support

To the Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., the Honorable Paul G. Pinsky and  
Esteemed Members of the Committees:

FreeState Justice is Maryland's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) civil rights advocacy organization. Each year, we provide free legal services to hundreds of LGBTQ Marylanders facing discrimination. We strive to create an equitable Maryland where LGBTQ Marylanders can live full lives with dignity and respect in all spaces.

Currently, single occupancy restrooms exist in publicly owned buildings and places of public accommodation across Maryland. However, despite being completely enclosed restrooms with one toilet and a door that locks, some continue to have gendered images and language that exclude members of the Intersex, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming community.

By mandating that public spaces and places of public accommodations remove exclusionary gendered signage, this bill will build a more inclusive and affirming community for intersex, transgender and gender non-conforming Marylanders. No longer will some Marylanders feel excluded or disrespected because of symbolic violence that renders them invisible. This bill makes a significant and important contribution to making our public spaces truly accessible, safe, and validating for all our citizens.

Public health and medical research has demonstrated how the seemingly small symbolic exclusions and violence faced by minorities in everyday life compound, leading to increased stress and disproportionately negative health outcomes. Therefore, removing exclusionary symbols, at little to no cost, can be a positive step in remedying health disparities.

We strongly support this legislation and urge you to vote favorably.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Procopio  
Executive Director

#### BOARD

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*FreeState Justice, Inc. (formerly FreeState Legal Project, Inc., merging with Equality Maryland)  
is a social justice organization that works through direct legal services, legislative and policy advocacy, and community  
engagement to enable Marylanders across the spectrum of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer identities to be  
free to live authentically, with safety and dignity, in all communities throughout our state.*

**GLSEN\_FAV\_SB 401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV

Kimberly Mooney  
GLSEN Maryland  
4227 Fallstaff Road  
Baltimore, MD 21215

February 11, 2020

Senate Committee on Judicial Proceedings  
Maryland General Assembly  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Smith:

GLSEN MD is pleased to have the opportunity to review SB 401; Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act). This legislation would require that certain single-occupancy restrooms be made available to persons of any gender identity and that any associated signage be gender-inclusive.

We at GLSEN MD strive to make sure every school in our state offers a safe and inclusive environment in which for every child to learn. We believe that all public accommodations should reflect this same spirit. In order to fully embrace the diversity that makes Maryland what it is, we must make our communities safe for all residents. LGBTQ children and adults deserve the same basic respect and access to public accommodations as our heterosexual and cisgender peers.

Under the 2014 Fairness for All Marylanders Act (FAMA), Maryland greatly expanded protections for transgender individuals which included the use of locker rooms and other public accommodations. In keeping with the intent of FAMA, SB 401; Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act) seeks to reduce the stigma and violence experienced by the transgender community in public restrooms. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE), there are at least 1.4 million transgender people in the United States. In a 2015 NCTE survey of 27,715 transgender individuals, 31% of respondents reported having experienced some form of mistreatment in places of public accommodation. A recent study conducted by the Human Rights Campaign involving transgender and gender expansive students between the ages of 13 and 17 from all 50 states and the District of Columbia found that 58% cannot use the restroom that best reflects their gender because they do not feel safe using them (HRC 2018 LGBTQ Youth Report). Many transgender people refrain from using the restroom when out in public in an effort to avoid conflict or danger.



Out of consideration for the mental and physical health, as well as the equitable treatment of transgender individuals, GLSEN MD strongly urges a favorable report on SB 401; The Accessible to All Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly Mooney!". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kimberly Mooney  
Board Chair, GLSEN MD



# **Greener Kitchen\_FAV\_SB 401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



**Support SB 401**  
February 11, 2020

The Greener Kitchen  
Testimony for SB 401  
Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms -  
Availability (The Accessible to All Act)

Thank you to the Senate committee for hearing SB 401 the Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act) today. The Greener Kitchen prioritizes having gender inclusive restrooms in our space because we believe in making our restaurant accessible to all. Ensuring that everyone feels comfortable when entering the restroom, whether for themselves, or as a caretaker for another person, is a core component of the overarching mission of our business. Creating a welcoming space for all by incorporating gender inclusive signage has only been a benefit to us as a business. Our business is located at 803 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230, and we were excited to see Baltimore City Council pass 19-0385 last year, on which SB 401 was based. Codifying equity is the right thing to do, and as a business, we know it will make Maryland a safer and more welcoming place for our residents, as well as for tourists.

We have seen firsthand how eliminating barriers to restroom access by making our restroom gender inclusive has had an incredibly positive effect. Our customers know they can come to our business and receive respect and dignity, and they have let us know how powerful that is in their daily lives. Some of our transgender customers seek us out because they know that they will receive basic courtesies that are absent in other places of public accommodation, and that they won't have to be under scrutiny for what bathroom they enter. Hearing those stories lets us know how impactful such legislation can be in the everyday lives of Marylanders. We're proud to run such a business, and to be pushing for positive growth on many fronts.

This legislation is good for business, good for Marylanders, and is a simple way to update our laws so we can compete on a national level. Maryland will join Washington D.C., Philadelphia, as well as Baltimore City in enacting this legislation, and our business avidly supports this legislation.

Please vote in support of SB 401 the Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act).

**Greenstein\_FAV\_SB0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**Date: February 12, 2020**  
**Bill: SB 401, The Accessible to All Act**  
**Position: Support**

**Testimony by Julie Salz Greenstein**

Chairman Smith and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 401, a bill that that would require any single-occupancy public restroom to be designated as gender-neutral. I'd also like to thank Senator Kagan for introducing this bill and Senator Lee, my representative, for supporting this bill.

My name is Julie Greenstein and I live with my family in Bethesda.

I was at a restaurant this past weekend and I went to use the bathroom. There was a single men's room and a single women's room. The women's room was occupied, as it so often is, and the men's room was vacant. I stood there for a few minutes waiting for the women's bathroom to become available. It didn't. So I decided to go into the men's room. The men's room and the women's room are identical. The only difference is the sign on the door. This is ridiculous.

For me and other women, waiting a bit longer for a bathroom is just an inconvenience. But for so many others, like for my own kids, those signs on the door mean much more.

My husband and I have 16-year-old twins that attend Walter Johnson High School. When my twins were born, they were what we say "assigned female at birth" or AFAB. Several years ago, one of my twins came out as transgender and more recently, my other child now identifies as non-binary.

When they were first born, I remember getting a lot of advice about raising children and hearing about all the different issues I may face as a parent. The possibility of having kids that are transgender or non-binary was never discussed, not even on the radar. At that point, I didn't even know the terms transgender and non-binary.

When they did come out to my husband and me, we immediately embraced them and told them both we would love them no matter what.

And to this day I'm so glad we did. I'm on several Facebook groups for parents of transgender and non-conforming kids. Every day, on these pages, I read stories from parents expressing their wish for their spouse or other family members to support their child. They talk about how this lack of support shatters their kids, leads to depression and in some cases suicide.

We are so fortunate that our entire family and friend circle has embraced our kids with love and support. It means everything to my husband and me and it means everything to my two kids.

This love and support from family, friends and community is what makes my kids able to lead happy and fulfilled lives – and I’m talking about two teenagers here! My son does theatre and is on his high school’s wrestling team. My other child taught themselves guitar, loves history and is one of the funniest people I know.

Before my son came out as transgender, before he even knew that there was such a word, he felt uncomfortable using the women’s/girls bathroom in public establishments and at school.

At age 10, he got his hair cut so he could look like a boy; his true self, but then girls and women in the bathroom started wondering what he was doing there. It wasn’t until he came out as transgender in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and started using the mens’ bathroom, that he felt comfortable and in the right place.

My other twin, who identifies as non-binary, won’t use the bathroom in public places unless the bathrooms are designated as gender neutral. And now we try to go only to restaurants that have a gender-neutral restroom option.

Teens today already put so much pressure on themselves and are ridden with anxiety. This is especially true for non-conforming kids, who every day worry about being bullied, or how they can get out of gym class to avoid changing in front of their peers. Do we really want these kids also worrying about where they will go to the bathroom or how they will hold it in so they don’t have to use a bathroom?

Providing access to gender-neutral bathrooms can alleviate some of this anxiety. Not only for the LGBTQ community but also for parents accompanying their young children and caregivers assisting people for whom they are responsible for in the bathroom, regardless of gender.

I’ve asked restaurant managers to make the change to their single occupancy restrooms and they were happy to do so. They understand that their customers prefer the gender-neutral option.

SB 401 would require a nominal expense for public establishments, about \$15 a sign, but will have an enormous impact on individuals with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community, and parents of young children.

California, Illinois, and Vermont along with cities like Austin, Baltimore, New York City, Philadelphia, Portland, OR, and Washington, D.C., have passed laws that require gender-neutral, single-occupancy bathrooms, and I ask the members of this Committee to vote in support of this legislation as well.

Thank you.

# **Human Rights Coalition\_FAV\_SB 0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



Senate Committee on Judicial Proceedings  
Maryland General Assembly  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 7, 2020

**Re: SUPPORT for S.B. 0401, Testimony from the Human Rights Campaign in support of the bill requiring single-user public restrooms to be designated for use by all genders**

Dear Chairperson Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), on behalf of its more than three million members and supporters nationwide, including more than 160,000 members and supporters in Maryland, thanks you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 0401, an important and common-sense measure that would require single-user public restrooms to be available for use by individuals of all genders.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBTQ people and realize a world that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. As an advocate for LGBTQ individuals, HRC is a strong supporter of legislation that helps ensure the safety and well-being of transgender and gender non-conforming people.

While most people take unhindered access to restrooms and other sex-segregated facilities for granted, this is far from reality for many transgender and gender non-conforming people who often face stress, anxiety, prejudice, and even violence when accessing sex-segregated spaces like public restrooms.<sup>1</sup> Ensuring that single-occupancy public restrooms are available to everyone regardless of gender is an important step in addressing this problem and provides a safe space for transgender and gender non-conforming residents. All-gender single-user restrooms is also a matter of common sense and efficiency. Non-gendered single-occupancy facilities reduce wait times for everyone and eliminate the problems people with disabilities or others who have personal attendants of a different gender sometimes face when accessing restrooms. Moreover, making single-use restrooms open to all makes it easier for parents or guardians with children of a different gender to access public restrooms.

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<sup>1</sup> See Jody L. Herman, *Gendered Restrooms and Minority Stress: The Public Regulation of Gender and its Impact on Transgender Lives*, The Williams Inst., UCLA Sch. of L., 68 (last visited Feb. 5, 2020).



S.B. 0401 would expand access to single-occupancy public restrooms by requiring businesses and public buildings to use gender-inclusive signage for these facilities. More than a dozen municipalities, including Baltimore,<sup>2</sup> have enacted similar laws. Additionally, five states—California, Vermont, New Mexico, Maine, and Illinois—currently have laws requiring that all single-occupancy restrooms in public places be available to people of all genders. It is time that Maryland join these states and localities in enacting this common sense legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of this critical bill to protect the safety and well-being of LGBTQ individuals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Warbelow".

Sarah Warbelow  
Legal Director  
Human Rights Campaign

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<sup>2</sup> See Baltimore City, Md., Ordinance 19-265 (Jun. 17, 2019).

# **LeadingAge MD\_FAV\_SB0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



6811 Campfield Road  
Baltimore, MD 21207

**TO:** Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** LeadingAge Maryland  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 401, Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)  
**DATE:** February 12, 2020  
**POSITION:** **Favorable**

LeadingAge Maryland supports Senate Bill 401, Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act).

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. We represent more than 120 not-for-profit organizations, including the vast majority of CCRCs in Maryland. Our mission is to expand the world of possibilities for aging in Maryland. We partner with consumers, caregivers, researchers, faith communities and others who care about aging in Maryland.

Senate Bill 401 requires public restrooms to include gender-inclusive signs. Other states have passed similar laws. The benefit reaches beyond what some may consider controversial issues. Such a law would be impactful for frail older adults who need toileting assistance and may have caretakers of the opposite gender, such as spouses. Passage of Senate Bill 401 would provide seniors with the dignity they deserve.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 401.

**For more information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield, Greenfield Law, LLC,  
410.446.1992**

**MACIL\_FAV\_SB 0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



February 5, 2020

Bill: House Bill 1147 Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings-  
Single Occupancy Public Restrooms-Availability

Committee: Economic Matters and Health and Government Operations

Position: Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass,

The Maryland Association of Centers for Independent Living are pleased to write a letter of support for House Bill 1147: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings- Single Occupancy Public Restrooms-Availability. This bill requires that single occupancy restrooms allow universal access. Individuals with disabilities, seniors, and families with small children would be permitted private and dignified restroom access to the closest single occupancy restroom, rather than travelling to a restroom remotely located on a different floor of a building.

Centers for Independent Living are non-residential centers serving all people with disabilities throughout the State of Maryland.

We offer services including independent living skills training, advocacy, transition programs, and assistive technology support. As the Executive Directors of Centers for Independent Living, we are aware of the value that HB1147 will have for our consumers.

**1406B Crain Highway South  
Suite 206  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
443-713-3914**

Accessible Resources for  
Independence, Inc.

Katie Collins-Ihrke,  
Executive Director

Bay Area Center for Independent  
Living, Inc.

Dr. Katherine L.R. Jones,  
Executive Director

The Freedom Center, Inc.

David Drezner,  
Executive Director

The IMAGE Center, Inc.

Michael Bullis,  
Executive Director

Independence Now, Inc.

Sarah Sorensen,  
Executive Director

Resources for Independence, Inc.

Lori Magruder,  
Executive Director

Southern Maryland  
Center for Independent Living,  
Inc.

Lidiya Belyovska,  
Executive Director

**MD DD Coalition\_FAV\_SB0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



## MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

### Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 12, 2020

### Senate Bill 401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)

Position: Support as amended



8601 Robert Fulton Dr  
Suite 140  
Columbia, MD 21046

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such, the DD Coalition supports SB401 as amended.



1500 Union Avenue  
Suite 2000  
Baltimore, MD 21211

The Coalition applauds this effort. This legislation seeks to move our State, one small step at a time, towards full equity for all Marylanders, including those with disabilities. **The sponsor amendments strengthen this bill and represent the work of a collaborative, stakeholder centered approach.**



8835 Columbia 100 Pky  
Suite P  
Columbia, MD 21044

Sponsor Amendment:

GENDER-INCLUSIVE SIGNAGE” MEANS A SIGN IDENTIFYING A RESTROOM THAT DOES NOT INDICATE A SPECIFIC GENDER, THAT INCLUDES WORDS SUCH AS “RESTROOM,” “BATHROOM,” OR “TOILET,” AND A SYMBOL INDICATING THE RESTROOM’S AVAILABILITY FOR USE BY ANY INDIVIDUAL REGARDLESS OF GENDER, SUCH AS A PICTURE OR ICON OF A “TOILET” OR SIMPLY A SYMBOL INDICATING THE RESTROOM’S AVAILABILITY FOR USE BY ANY INDIVIDUAL REGARDLESS OF GENDER, SUCH AS A PICTURE OR ICON OF A “TOILET.”



### Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

217 E Redwood Street  
Suite 1300  
Baltimore, MD 21202

People with disabilities require a variety of support needs – sometimes with personal care. Gender-neutral bathrooms, in general, are more inclusive and for people with disabilities, who may receive support from someone of a different gender, remove an arbitrary barrier to everyday comfort. However, one commonality is the need to quickly and clearly identify which door leads to a bathroom and whether that bathroom is intended for them personally.

Relying on text alone and specifically prohibiting a pictogram risked confusing or excluding a person with a disability from the most basic of human need. The amendments, as offered, address those concerns by providing for both text and a symbol.



7000 Tudsbury Road  
Windsor Mill, MD  
21244

Contact: Keith Walmsley, Director of Public Policy Initiatives, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council  
kwalmsley@md-council.org

**MDTU\_FAV\_SB0401\_**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV





Wednesday, February 12, 2020

**Written Testimony Favorable to SB0401:  
Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings -  
Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)**

Senator Smith, Chair, Senator Waldstreicher, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Proceedings Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Graham. I write to you today on behalf of the leadership team of Maryland Trans\*Unity. We are pleased to have been given the opportunity to review SB0401, also known as The Accessible to All Act. This legislation would require that certain single-occupancy restrooms be made available to persons of any gender identity and that any associated signage be gender-inclusive. **Maryland Trans\*Unity fully supports SB0401 and we ask you for a favorable report so that the bill can be passed along to the Senate floor for consideration.**

Maryland Trans\*Unity is a peer-led volunteer run support group for people who are transgender or gender non-conforming. We have meetings in Bethesda and Hyattsville on a bi-monthly and monthly basis. As a leader and facilitator of this support group, my colleagues have asked me to highlight the challenges transgender or gender non-conforming (TGNC) people experience in everyday life when accessing and navigating public bathrooms. Multi-occupancy public bathrooms are especially stressful - it seems that cisgender people think we are in the wrong one regardless of which one we use.

Single occupancy public bathrooms, when available, are a huge relief to transgender, gender non-conforming and gender expansive adults and children - even when the signage is gendered. At least the door can be closed and locked for privacy.

**However, the mere existence of single occupancy bathrooms is not enough to make using a public restroom feel safe for transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse people. Only signage which makes it clear that a single occupancy bathroom is gender inclusive - or available to anyone - will do that.**

We are still stopped when trying to access a restroom that is vacant when the one that correlates with our perceived gender is occupied. This very thing happened to another support group leader a few weeks ago at a restaurant in Rockville, Maryland. My colleague was using a cane due to a leg injury, and was redirected away from a single occupancy restroom designated for "women" to the "men's" single occupancy restroom on the other side of the restaurant - the men's restroom was occupied.

Our support group members are more than trans, non-binary, or gender nonconforming. For an autistic person like myself, public bathrooms with multiple stalls can be overwhelming due to excessive or unexpected stimuli. Our participants with mobility challenges may take longer to get to a bathroom when it is desperately needed. Other participants may need a Direct Support Professional to accompany them into the community and into a public restroom. This, too, requires privacy and perceived gender of the Direct Support Professional may not match those of the disabled person.

We also have parents of children that attend our support group. Some of those parents present as a different gender than their own. Sometimes a single occupancy bathroom is needed so the young child and their parents feel safe because they are together. And sometimes, parents just need access to the bathroom with a functioning changing table.

Under the 2014 Fairness for All Marylanders Act (FAMA), Maryland greatly expanded protections for transgender individuals which included the use of locker rooms and other public accommodations. **In keeping with the intent of FAMA, SB0401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)** seeks to reduce the stigma and violence experienced by the transgender community in public restrooms.

The National Center for Transgender Equality's *2015 US Trans Survey* reports that more than half (59%) of respondents avoided using a restroom in the year prior to the survey due to fear of verbal, physical, sexual assault and/or other problems, like being asked to leave the restroom or overall location. Nearly one third (32%) of respondents in the previous year reported avoiding eating or drinking in a public location in order to avoid having to use the restroom. 8% of respondents reported having a urinary tract infection, kidney infection, or another kidney problem in the last year from avoiding restrooms.

Out of consideration for the mental and physical health, as well as the equitable treatment of transgender individuals, **Maryland Trans\*Unity urges you to vote in favor SB0401 (The Accessible to All Act)** - so that all of Maryland residents and visitors are able to remain active and fully participate in the community.

Sincerely,

Ms. Elizabeth K. Graham  
Leadership Team Member and Faciliator  
Maryland Trans\*Unity  
(e) lizzyg0816@gmail.com  
(c) 202.834.8456

**MoCoPrideCenter\_FAV\_SB0401 (final)**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



**February 12, 2020**

**Written Testimony in Support of SB0401:  
Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public  
Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)**

Senator Smith, Chair, Senator Waldstreicher, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Proceedings Committee:

MoCo Pride Center is proud to fully support SB0401, also known as The Accessible to All Act.

There is no good reason for requiring people to choose a gender before entering a single-occupancy restroom. By eliminating binary gendered words and images in the signs posted on these restrooms, Maryland would make nearly all public spaces as defined in the bill more welcoming to:

- Transgender, non-binary or gender non-conforming people
- Women who are designated as female at birth (cisgender women), who often must wait in a line for the women's restroom to become vacant
- Parents who are perceived as a different gender than their young children
- Disabled people who need the assistance of a family, friend, or direct support professional in order to use the restrooms
- Elders with dementia, or other disabilities, who require assistance to use the restroom
- People of color who are perceived as threatening when entering or exiting an available single occupancy restroom with gendered signage
- People who become suddenly ill and must get to a restroom immediately

When a policy or a bill like SB0401 is introduced, homophobic and transphobic individuals make the argument that it will only really help transgender people – a relatively small portion of the population. Per the examples above, this is simply not true. Gender-inclusive restrooms, sometimes referred to as “all gender restrooms” or “gender-neutral restrooms” benefit everyone who lives in, works in, goes to school in

and/or visits the state of Maryland. Everyone is able to participate more actively in their communities and in public spaces.

SB0401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act) will have no effect on state revenues; will have minimal effect on local revenues (any cost for enforcing the law can be absorbed by the fines each county or municipality sets); and will also have very limited effects on small business owners, who will be granted more than enough time to replace restroom signs before enforcement fines can take place. The cost of each sign is less than \$100 in most cases.

MoCo Pride Center works to protect the rights of those who are often invisible and invalidated. We strongly encourage Maryland's legislature to join California, New Mexico, Illinois, Vermont and other states and cities in affirming the right of access to public facilities for all.

**Please file a favorable report on SB0401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)** so that it can move forward to the senate floor for consideration.

Sincerely,

MoCo Pride Center's Board of Directors:

*Ezra Towne, Han Malyn, Jill McCrory, John Grimes, Marty Drake,  
Phillip Alexander Downie, Renoir Dawson-Finan, Shelly Mohnkern*

**MSFCCA\_FAV\_SB 0401\_**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



**Testimony Concerning SB0401/HB1147– Places of Public  
Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public  
Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)**

**Submitted to the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Committee**

**February 12, 2020**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit association advocating on behalf of approximately 4600 registered family child care providers in Maryland that are an important part of the child care delivery system. Registered family child care providers in Maryland care for a significant number of Maryland’s children and typically work alone in mixed-age group settings. For this reason, we ask that you Favorably Support SB401/HB1147.

Many of our members operate early education programs that field trips to enhance the educational experience of their young learners. During these excursions, bathroom usage is difficult since most programs have mixed-gender groups of children, this makes taking care of the bathroom needs of all the children in a well-supervised manner stressful. Young boys of all ages are many times uncomfortable and apprehensive to use the “Women’s” bathroom, and because providers do not generally have a male helper, this is a challenge. SB0401/HB1147 will help alleviate this problem because the bathroom signage will be changed from *Women’s* or *Men’s* room, to *Restroom* in all single-user public restrooms in Maryland. This change will make it much more accommodating for the provider and less stressful for our children. Because venturing outside of the daily child care setting is beneficial for the children and can expose them to so many wonderful places in our communities, this change would positively impact our programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our Support on this Bill and we ask again that you strongly support SB0401/HB1147, Places of Public Accommodation and Public Building – Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms – Availability (The Accessible to All Act). For any further questions feel free to contact Rebecca Hancock, the MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at (301) 934-1795.

**MSSCAN\_FAV\_SB0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV





# *Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network*

## **MSCAN**

*AARP Maryland*

*Alzheimer's  
Association,  
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish  
Council*

*Catholic Charities*

*Central Maryland  
Ecumenical Council*

*Church of the Brethren*

*Episcopal Diocese of  
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities  
Commission of  
Montgomery County*

*Jewish Community  
Relations Council of  
Greater Washington*

*Lutheran Office on  
Public Policy in  
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of  
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic  
Conference*

*Mental Health  
Association of Maryland*

*Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan*

*NAACP - Maryland*

*National Association of  
Social Workers,  
Maryland Chapter*

*Presbytery of Baltimore*

*The Coordinating  
Center*

*MSCAN Co-Chairs:  
Carol Lienhard  
Kimberly Burton  
443-901-1550 x 210*

## **SB 401 - Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act) Senate Economic Matters Committee SUPPORT**

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing and care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN supports the spirit of SB 401 which seeks to meet the needs of individuals seeking restrooms in public buildings which are gender-inclusive.

We especially recognize the way in which this bill can be helpful to frail seniors who may need the assistance of a caregiver of the opposite gender - like a daughter helping her elderly father, a son assisting his elderly mother, or any other caregiver who may be of a gender opposite that of the vulnerable senior.

We imagine the distress of a caregiver who is unable to accompany his or her elder who requires support with toileting if restrooms are marked for the opposite gender. This bill would welcome individuals of any gender to use these single-occupancy restroom facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill for the benefit of frail elders and their caregivers.

**National Center for Transgender \_FAV\_SB 0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



February 10, 2020

**RE: Accessible to All Act (LR492/SB401)**

Dear Delegates and Senators:

The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) writes to express our strong support for the Accessible to All Act (LR492/SB401), which would clearly align Maryland law with the current International Plumbing Code, which requires single-occupancy public restrooms to be open to all persons.

The 2018 and 2021 versions of the International Plumbing Code require that all single-occupancy public restrooms be available to everyone, regardless of gender. While the 2018 IPC was incorporated into Maryland's regulatory code last year, many managers of public buildings and many businesses serving the public are unaware of current code requirements. This is because prior versions of the IPC, and therefore of Maryland code, required even single-user restrooms to be separated by gender. Readers of the current regulations would need to cross-reference the 2018 IPC to be aware of the change. By clearly incorporating current, more inclusive standards in statute, the Accessible to All Act would help make clear to all places of public businesses and buildings in the state that single-user facilities should be open to all.

Separating single-occupancy facilities by gender is unnecessary and causes delay and inconvenience in accessing public facilities for everyone. Many Marylanders have had the experience of waiting in line for one public restroom while another sits empty. Many parents with young children have hesitated over accompanying a child of another gender into the restroom.

Unfortunately, many transgender people continue to face harassment and discrimination in access to public facilities. Out of 662 Marylanders in the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, 58% said they avoided using a public restroom in the past year because they were afraid of confrontations or other problems they might experience. In the same survey, 34% of Maryland respondents limited the amount that they ate or drank to avoid using the restroom in the past year, and 7% were actually denied access to a public restroom in the past year.

The Accessible to All Act would eliminate all of these problems with respect to single-user facilities, and assist businesses and localities in complying with existing code provisions. NCTE strongly urges lawmakers to support this simple bill.

Sincerely,

Mara Keisling  
Executive Director

# **RedDirtStudio-FAV\_SB401-Letter**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV

margaret boozer



red dirt studio

[4051 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712](http://405134thStreet.Mt.Rainier.MD.20712)

[margaret@margaretboozer.com](mailto:margaret@margaretboozer.com) 202/607-9472

[www.margaretboozer.com](http://www.margaretboozer.com)

11 February 2020

RE: SB 401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Prince Georges County business, with single stall bathrooms, and I am in **complete support** of this bill. We already have it in our business, and support it all across the county and state.

Thank you,

Margaret Boozer, Director

# **SB401\_Senator Cheryl Kagan\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV

CHERYL C. KAGAN  
Legislative District 17  
Montgomery County

—  
Vice Chair  
Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

—  
Joint Audit Committee  
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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800-492-7122 Ext. 3134  
Fax 301-858-3665 · 410-841-3665  
Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings -  
Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (the “Accessible to All Act”)  
Senate Finance Committee  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 12:00 PM**

Most of us don't think twice about using a gender-neutral restroom in a hotel, hospital, or airplane. However, in many public establishments, we face the unnecessary inconvenience of single-occupant, gender-divided facilities. Labeling these restrooms with gender-specific signs can limit access for parents with young children; women who experience longer wait times; caretakers of the disabled; and those who identify as transgender.

SB401 would require all public single-occupancy restrooms to have gender-inclusive signage. New signs are available for purchase online for as little as \$15.

This bill would:

- Make restrooms more available for women who take three minutes, about twice as long as men (84 seconds), causing lengthy lines;
- Ensure that people with disabilities no longer have to locate gender-specific facilities;
- Allow parents and caretakers to enter a restroom with their family member or patient; and
- Protect transgender people who may feel uncomfortable or face harassment.

In 2019, Baltimore City enacted a law that requires single-user public restrooms to use gender-inclusive signage. In the past three years, California, Vermont, Maine, Illinois, and New Mexico have also enacted similar legislation. Many national companies, like Starbucks and Chipotle, and countless small businesses across Maryland, already use this type of signage.

SB401 is a common-sense solution to make using the restroom a little less complicated. In addition, I'm offering an amendment that would clarify the definition of “Gender-Inclusive Signage” and ensure that establishments have more time to update their signs.

I urge a favorable report on SB401 with the clarifying amendment.

# **Shaun Rose\_FAV\_SB401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
General Assembly of Maryland  
2E Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
[Will.Smith@Senate.State.MD.US](mailto:Will.Smith@Senate.State.MD.US)

Feb 11, 2020

**SB0401/HB1147 Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)**

Dear Senator Smith,

I write to express my support of SB0401 which would require single-occupancy restrooms to be marked with gender-inclusive signage. I am the president of a nonprofit child care center that serves up to 176 children and their families from infants through pre-k. As a former representative of child care providers in both elected and appointed capacities, I have testified regularly about the critical need for more state funding to better support parental needs for quality child care. I often oppose bills, even when they are well intentioned, that impose unfunded mandates on child care programs because such bills have the effect of making our child care crisis worse rather than better.

However, with this bill, I reached out to a group of over 1000 child care directors from across Maryland and received feedback of strong support for this bill. Child care providers care deeply about inclusivity and making all families, staff, and children feel comfortable & welcome in our facilities. Our single stall bathrooms are already typically available for all of the children. Single occupancy adult bathrooms are most often available for any user as needed.

Thus, as I agree with the inclusivity goals of this bill, believe the impact to current child care programs would be minimal, and obtained support from other child care providers, I support this bill.

Sincerely,



Shaun M. Rose  
Montgomery County, MD  
[Shaun@RockSpringCC.com](mailto:Shaun@RockSpringCC.com)

**Silvie Gallado\_FAV\_SB0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV

Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)

Submitted by:

Silvie U. Gallardo  
6225 Lone Oak Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20817

In support of the Bill.

Good afternoon,

My name is Silvie Gallardo, and I submit this statement in support of SB401, a Bill to require gender-inclusive signage for single-occupancy bathrooms. First, I would like to say thank you to all who have devoted so much effort and time to advocating for this Bill and who are responsible for it making to this point which is for the benefit of all. My thanks and appreciation as well for all of the members of this Assembly who have sponsored this Bill.

My family and I live in Bethesda, Maryland. My son, Max, is 8 years old; he will be nine in June. He is funny, smart, kind, a great musician, and has a very sensitive soul. Max is also, like many, many other kids in this State, on the autism spectrum. He has what would have been called Asperger's, before the Autism Spectrum Disorder was recategorized. With this syndrome come a set of challenges and issues which are varied in complexity and in severity.

Just from looking at him, you would never guess that my son has any sort of issue impeding his free and comfortable use of public facilities. However, Max does have anxiety issues when doing things in the public setting that most people not on the spectrum never have to think about. Max feels anxiety, which goes through the roof, when in new situations and places. Public restrooms are a particular challenge. We are not alone in this issue, many families with children with ASD experience these same difficulties just like Max and we do.

When I have to take Max someplace or on errands with me, I have to always do a mental calculus of which places have a family bathroom, or a gender-neutral bathroom. If I cannot come up with an itinerary where I know we'll be near a "safe" place, I either keep him at home or have to ask my husband to do the running around. There are errands I simply won't attempt to do when Max is with me because I know that there are no bathrooms where I can go in too. The times there has been an emergency, and I have just taken him into the woman's bathroom with me, I have gotten the odd look or two, because he's no longer that little of a boy. Or, when I have dashed into a man's restroom with him, gentlemen are quite surprised to see me come out. At times I feel great sadness that my boy is not enjoying the world as much as he could, just because of a bathroom sign.

Single-gender, single occupancy bathrooms are one of those things a lot of people don't have to think about as a challenge, at all, but we do, because for Max using bathrooms in public

places, when we are not accompanied by his father and he has to do it alone, are a difficult thing. Children on the spectrum have motor control issues, both major and minor. Some bathroom doors are heavy, locks are sometimes hard to engage, the hand dryers – though a good thing for water conservation, are so loud that Max gets scared, but when he’s reassured by the presence of a family member, the use of a public bathroom becomes easier and something that he can handle well. Eventually, I am certain that Max will be able to go to a public restroom alone, but this process of learning cannot happen if he doesn’t get the support he needs now and up and until he is proficient at navigating these bathrooms. So, right now and for some years to come, he needs to be accompanied by someone else.

What this Bill would mean is that I, or his sister or sitters, could always accompany him and assist him in going to the bathroom. We are not asking you to provide bathroom help on the public’s dime - I am only requesting that you permit me to help him, that you let his older sister or his grandmother, help him. We have every confidence that Max will get better and better at navigating this challenging world. He has a great school support system, he has us, but now he needs you to remove a barrier that has no real reason to be there.

Many times, a legislator’s job is complicated more than normal when a segment of their constituency feels something is taken from them. This Bill takes nothing away from anyone and instead empowers many to live their lives with less obstacles. I urge you to support this Bill and make into law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Silvie Gallardo

# 5 things parents of special needs kids want you to know about public restrooms

June 21, 2016, 1:30 PM EDT / Source: TODAY Contributor

**By Allison Slater Tate**

North Carolina's newly passed House Bill #2 (HB2) – the so-called "bathroom law" which prohibits anyone over the age of 7 from using a public restroom for a gender they weren't anatomically born into – might have unintended consequences for families with older special-needs children.

TODAY Parents asked some of those families what they wish the public knew about the challenges they face in public restrooms in light of this national debate. Here are some of their answers:

## **1. Sometimes, disabilities are invisible.**

Melissa Sharp, a mother of four in Roseville, California, is usually comfortable with Owen, her 12-year-old son who has autism, using a public restroom on his own. But in some situations, she is too uneasy to let him go alone if there isn't a male family member to accompany him or a family or single restroom available. In these cases, she takes him into the women's restroom with her.

Owen is perfectly capable of attending to his needs in a restroom alone, but he is "oblivious to his surroundings all of the time," Sharp told TODAY Parents. "Owen is literally the real life embodiment of [Buddy the Elf](#): He is naive and innocent and only ever sees the good in everyone," Sharp said. "He would be such an easy target."

## **2. "Family" or "companion" restrooms are often occupied, and not necessarily by those with special needs.**

Wendy and Matt Greenawalt of Laurel, Maryland, must sometimes travel great distances with their daughter Nora, 9, who has Down syndrome as well as extensive medical complications. Nora uses a wheelchair and cannot be left unattended.



Nora Greenawalt, age 9. Wendy Greenawalt

Wendy Greenawalt told TODAY Parents that restrooms marked "family" or "companion" are usually the most useful restrooms to someone with a disability, but they still are difficult to use because of high demand from non-disabled users.

"In those large restrooms I've seen everything from people changing for work to moms monitoring the restroom use of their fully capable, ambulatory, older children," said Greenawalt. "I've more than one time encountered a companion restroom being used for a lengthy period of time for a mom to nurse her baby. I've had people cut in front of me, bang on the door because I was taking too long."

### **3. Many stalls just aren't big enough.**

The slightly larger handicapped stall with grab bars found in most public places, Greenawalt said, is totally unusable to her family. Nora's wheelchair is larger because it is tilted, and it doesn't fit in these stalls. "In fact, I don't know that anyone in a mobility device could truly use one of these with any semblance of privacy," said Greenawalt.

Last week, while on vacation in Northern California, Vera Hough of Little Silver, New Jersey, posted this picture of Thomas, her 7-year-old son who uses a wheelchair, in a too-small public handicapped stall.

### **4. They are almost certainly more uncomfortable than you are.**

Tikvah Scheit, a Seattle, Washington, mother of three children, two of whom have autism, said she sometimes receives looks when she brings her 13-year-old son Kieran into the women's restroom with her. "At no time whatsoever could my son safely go to the men's room by himself," Scheit told TODAY Parents. "He picks up trash off the floor and puts things in his mouth. He doesn't understand that he needs to wait to take his clothes off after the door is shut, and if he were in trouble, he wouldn't have the words to tell someone that he needed help."



Tikvah Scheit's son, Kieran, age 13. Tikvah Scheit

Though her son doesn't notice who is in the bathroom with him, she worries about his future, especially in a climate where women are being made to feel afraid of public restrooms. "What happens when my son is an adult?" she asked. "Unless something drastically changes, this isn't going to be something that I can just stop doing."

##### **5. You can make a difference.**

For caregivers of children with special needs, the simple task of using a public restroom can be an enormous challenge, but you can help. "I've had kind people allow us to cut in line when the handicapped stall is free and heard many teaching their children what the handicapped symbol means and why they can use the 'small' stall," said Greenawalt.





Nora Greenawalt at Walt Disney World. Wendy Greenawalt

"One simple action can make a world of difference: Choose compassion," said Scheit.

Each of the parents expressed worries about HB2's potential ramifications on their families. "If I were to take my son to the store and not be able to have him use a bathroom when he needed to simply because he is a male coming into a woman's bathroom, it would be a massive incident for us," said Scheit.

Greenawalt agreed. "Losing the freedom for Nora to enter the men's room, such as in North Carolina, where we actually used to live, would be detrimental to our ability to take her to do fun things and participate in our family life," she said.



### [Family thanks bus driver who cared for their disabled son](#)

APRIL 1, 2016 03:20



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## Motor control problems may be core issue for people with autism

Jennifer Huber

December 28, 2016

[\[http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/401059295\\_6be75f0970\\_o.jpg\]](http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/401059295_6be75f0970_o.jpg) If you've ever had an MRI scan, you know that it can be hard to lie still in the noisy, claustrophobic scanner. People often move involuntarily, requiring scientists to correct or eliminate the imaging data during movement.

 401059295\_6be75f0970\_o

Recently, a collaboration of Rutgers University and Columbia University researchers used this seemingly unhelpful data to further their understanding of a neurodevelopmental disease.

"We asked ourselves, 'What could these involuntary movements, which researchers usually consider a nuisance, tell us about autism?'" Elizabeth Torres [<http://psych.rutgers.edu/faculty-profiles-a-contacts/107-elizabeth-torres>], PhD, an associate professor of cognitive psychology at Rutgers, said in a [news release \[http://news.rutgers.edu/news/neuromotor-problems-core-autism-study-says/20161211#.WFdAQalrK7Y\]](http://news.rutgers.edu/news/neuromotor-problems-core-autism-study-says/20161211#.WFdAQalrK7Y).

The neuroscientists analyzed [functional magnetic resonance imaging \[http://fmri.ucsd.edu/Research/whatisfmri.html\]](http://fmri.ucsd.edu/Research/whatisfmri.html) (fMRI) data from 1048 participants, aged 6 to 50 years old, including individuals with autism spectrum disorders and healthy controls. The data was publicly available primarily through the [Autism Brain Imaging Data Exchange \[http://fcon\\_1000.projects.nitrc.org/indi/abide/\]](http://fcon_1000.projects.nitrc.org/indi/abide/) databases.

The researchers determined that people with autism had more problems controlling their head movements than healthy controls. They also found that motor control problems were exacerbated with the presence of secondary neuropsychiatric diagnoses, lower verbal and performance intelligence and autism severity, as reported in a [recent paper \[http://www.nature.com/articles/srep37422\]](http://www.nature.com/articles/srep37422) in *Scientific Reports*.

"For the first time, we can demonstrate unambiguously that motor issues are core issues that need to be included in the diagnosis criteria for autism," Torres said in the release.

In addition, they found that **psychotropic medications** (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3004683/>), commonly used to treat people on the autism spectrum, were associated with lower levels of motor control. These medications include anti-convulsants and anti-depressants. Autistic people who were taking more than one psychotropic medication moved the most during the fMRIs, and their movement worsened over the scanning session.

The researchers conclude in their paper, "Nevertheless, it remains to be demonstrated if changes in head micro-movements directly capture targeted changes in symptomology brought about by a specific medication." Their findings are also complicated by the simultaneous presence of autism and other diseases, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. So more research is needed.

Previously: [Tracking autism: a social neuroscientist's hunt for autism biomarkers](http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/2016/05/19/tracking-autism-a-social-neuroscientists-hunt-for-autism-biomarkers/) [<http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/2016/05/19/tracking-autism-a-social-neuroscientists-hunt-for-autism-biomarkers/>], [New Stanford research offers hope for faster autism diagnosis](http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/2016/02/23/new-stanford-research-offers-hope-for-faster-autism-diagnosis/) [<http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/2016/02/23/new-stanford-research-offers-hope-for-faster-autism-diagnosis/>] and [On genetics, immunology and autism: A Q&A with Stanford's Theo Palmer](http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/2016/10/11/on-genetics-immunology-and-autism-a-qa-with-stanfords-theo-palmer) [<http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/2016/10/11/on-genetics-immunology-and-autism-a-qa-with-stanfords-theo-palmer>]  
Photograph by Michael Phillips

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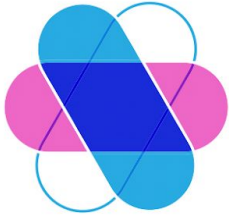


**Eating for good blood: Tips for boosting iron levels and hemoglobin**

# **TranshealthcareMD\_FAV\_SB 0401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



# Trans Healthcare Maryland

*because you shouldn't have to know more than your doctor.*

**SUPPORT SB 401**  
**February 10, 2020**

## **Testimony for SB 401** **Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)**

Trans Healthcare MD enthusiastically supports SB 401 Maryland's Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act). This bill equitizes bathroom access for all Maryland residents state wide. Maryland's trans and intersex communities face specific challenges when accessing basic bodily needs such as restrooms, healthcare, housing, and personal safety when moving about in public, and this bill lowers that barrier to access. Gender non-conformity has existed since the beginning of time. Due to the violence of colonial systems, trans persons are subjected to violence at higher rates; this rate is even higher for Black and Brown nonbinary and gender expansive trans persons. Black persons face an almost 3x higher risk of abuse in places of public accommodations than white persons according to the 2015 US Trans Survey ([2015 US Transgender Survey](#)).

Nonbinary, gender non-conforming, gender expansive, and intersex persons who do not have a binary gender presentation (female or male) are forced to choose a non-affirming (and potentially dangerous) restroom, or to incur health problems like urinary tract infections as a result of being precluded from using the restroom in public. Being perceived as entering the "wrong" restroom is dangerous, increasing the likelihood of violence, and reinforces the minority stress disproportionately incurred by Maryland's trans communities.

Creating an inclusive and safe environment is essential to strengthening Maryland's economy. Governor Larry Hogan stated in 2015, "Maryland is open for business." This bill is crucial to ensuring Maryland can compete for business with nearby states that have already codified law on this matter. Maryland has a chance to join nearby jurisdictions that are forward thinking in their policies to equitize bathroom access for all people. Those cities include Washington DC which codified this in 2006 and Philadelphia, PA in 2016. Additionally, Maryland's own Baltimore City codified this in 2019.

Equitizing access to bathrooms means those who need assistance from caretakers will not face scrutiny for going into the "wrong" restroom. Access to changing facilities for babies should be available to all persons, so persons of all genders and gender expressions caring for a child can change their baby. This can include trans men who are fathers and caretakers, gay men (transgender or cisgender) who are parents, and grandparents of any gender who care for a baby. No parent or caretaker should have to change a baby on the floor because changing tables are only available in women's restrooms.

Trans Healthcare MD asks that you support SB 401. This crucial piece of legislation will benefit many current and potential residents, in addition to those who travel to the state of Maryland.

# **Whitman-Walker Health\_FAV\_ S.B. 401**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV





# WHITMAN-WALKER HEALTH

Mailing Address:

**Whitman-Walker at LIZ**  
1377 R Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20009

**BEFORE THE MARYLAND SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Testimony of Whitman-Walker Health in Support of Senate Bill 401  
The Accessible to All Act  
February 10, 2020**

Whitman-Walker Health (WWH or Whitman-Walker) is pleased to offer these comments in support of Senate Bill 401, the Accessible to All Act.

Whitman-Walker is a community-based, nonprofit health care center offering health care and health and wellness-related services to residents of the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area, including the nearby Maryland counties and Virginia counties and cities. We offer primary medical care, gender transition-related care, and HIV specialty care; mental health and addiction treatment services; dental care; medical adherence case management; testing and prevention services for HIV and sexually transmitted infections; youth and family support; Wellness services, including yoga and acupuncture; and legal services. In calendar year 2018, our health care patients included 3,616 Maryland residents.

WWH has a special mission to serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and nonbinary, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals and families throughout the metropolitan area. We are a major provider of health care to transgender and nonbinary persons in the Mid-Atlantic – and in the entire nation. In 2018, our health care patients included 1,837 transgender and nonbinary persons – 9% of our entire patient population. Twenty-five percent of our transgender and nonbinary patients – 457 individuals – were Maryland residents. Our reputation as a welcoming medical home for persons of every gender and sexual orientation, and our expertise in gender-affirming care, attracts patients not only from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, but also from Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Whitman-Walker Legal Services was established in 1986 to provide pro bono legal assistance on matters related to HIV/AIDS, and today offers legal advice and representation to LGBTQ individuals and families regardless of HIV status, and to health care patients at WWH regardless of HIV status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. We provide legal representation on a wide range of issues including discrimination in employment and health care; federal, state and local public benefits programs; disability insurance; immigration; medical

confidentiality; and name and gender marker changes in legal records for transgender and nonbinary individuals. The work of WWH Legal Services is critical to the health center's mission of providing comprehensive, integrated health care and related services to people living with HIV, the LGBT community, and others who rely on WWH for health care. Our Legal Services attorneys and paralegals are experts in transgender law. In calendar year 2019, we provided legal advice and assistance to 545 clients who identified as transgender, nonbinary, genderqueer or otherwise as non-cisgender – 21% of our total legal clients. One hundred thirty of those individuals – 24% of our total non-cisgender legal clients – were Maryland residents.

Whitman-Walker also has a vibrant research arm that has investigated LGBTQ health and wellness issues, as well as research into HIV treatment and prevention, for many years.

Few aspects of daily life are as sensitive, and as central to dignity, safety and health, as restroom access. Most of us are fortunate enough to be able to take safe and convenient access to restrooms for granted. For transgender and nonbinary individuals, however, use of a restroom consistent with their gender identity is too often a source of anxiety, possible humiliation, and even a threat to their safety. The labeling of single-occupancy restrooms as exclusively for “men” or “women” is a constant reminder of their marginalization and the possibility of being challenged when simply attempting to take care of one of the most basic human needs. Many Whitman-Walker patients and legal clients with marginalized and stigmatized gender identities cope with ongoing trauma which is continuously reinforced by such experiences. Moreover, discouraging persons from relieving themselves in a natural way is not only humiliating but can result in significant health problems.<sup>1</sup>

This is a very important issue for Maryland. Scholars at the Williams Institute estimate that more than 22,000 Marylanders identify as transgender.<sup>2</sup> According to the largest national survey of transgender adults in 2015, which reached more than 27,000 transgender and nonbinary adults,<sup>3</sup> respondents reported high levels of mistreatment, harassment, and violence in

---

<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Herman, Jody L. *Gendered Restrooms and Minority Stress: The Public Regulation of Gender and its Impact on Transgender People's Lives*. *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy* Spring 2013. Available at <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Herman-Gendered-Restrooms-and-Minority-Stress-June-2013.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Flores, Andrew R., Herman, Jody L., Gates, Gary J., Brown, Taylor N.T. *How Many Adults Identify as Transgender in the United States?* The Williams Institute June 2016. Page 3, Table 1. Available at <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/How-Many-Adults-Identify-as-Transgender-in-the-United-States.pdf>.

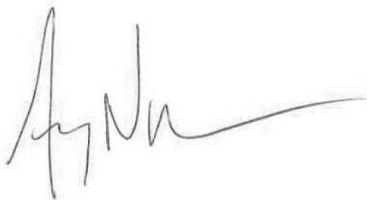
<sup>3</sup> James, Sandy E., et al. *THE REPORT OF THE 2015 U.S. TRANSGENDER SURVEY*. National Center for Transgender Equality 2016. Available at <http://www.ustranssurvey.org>.

every aspect of life. Seven percent of those respondents reported that someone denied them access to a restroom in the past year and 9% reported being verbally harassed. Fifty-eight percent avoided using a public restroom in the past year because they were afraid of confrontations of other problems, while 34% reported limiting the amount they ate or drank to avoid using the restroom. Nearly 700 adult transgender and nonbinary Marylanders participated in the survey.

Labeling single-occupancy restrooms by gender serves no positive social end. Simply changing “Men’s Restroom” and “Women’s Restroom” to “Restroom”, with other appropriate non-gender-specific signage, costs very little and eliminates a very significant obstacle to the health and well-being of our transgender and gender-nonbinary neighbors. Such changes in restroom signage impose no burden or inconvenience on anyone. Legislation similar to Senate Bill 401 has been enacted in Baltimore, the District of Columbia, Austin, Portland, New York City and Philadelphia, and the States of California, Illinois and Vermont, at insignificant cost and with substantial benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our experience.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Nelson, JD  
Director of Legal Services  
202-939-7625  
[anelson@whitman-walker.org](mailto:anelson@whitman-walker.org)



Daniel Bruner, JD, MPP  
Senior Director of Policy  
202-939-7628  
[dbruner@whitman-walker.org](mailto:dbruner@whitman-walker.org)

**Wonders\_FAV\_SB 0401(1)**

Uploaded by: Kagan, Senator

Position: FAV



11 February 2020

The Honorable Jared Solomon  
House Office Building, Room 222  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Solomon:

Wonders Early Learning + Extended Day is pleased to support the Accessible to All Act, HB SB401/LR492. This legislation requires that a single-occupancy public restroom be marked with gender-inclusive signage.

Wonders is a nonprofit provider of accredited early childhood education, before and after school care and summer camp with flexible programs, for children ages two months through sixth grade. We are committed to equity in our teaching practices and organizational policies and we are proud to be an integral part of the community. For over 40 years, Wonders has been providing a safe, nurturing learning environment parents can trust and depend upon in Bethesda, MD, Chevy Chase, MD, and now Rockville, MD.

We believe that all families should have access to privacy and to feel safe when using public restrooms. Gender neutral restrooms provide peace of mind for parents and guardians with young children, older disabled children and for all parents needing to change diapers. Fathers should not have to change diapers on the floor and most likely would not be comfortable using a restroom labeled as "women". Parents and guardians with children of a different gender often encounter scrutiny when accessing gender-specific restrooms. Removing gendered signage from single occupancy public restrooms allows families to use the facilities without feeling anxious about a possible confrontation or feeling awkward.

Gender neutral restrooms are nothing new. We use them in our homes, buses, trains, airplanes, some restaurants and small businesses and offices. Having more accessible restrooms in Maryland is good for families.

Wonders strongly urges a favorable report on SB401/LR492 Accessible to All Bill.

Sincerely,

Joanne Hurt  
Executive Director

**NON-PROFIT SINCE 1976**

**main office**

5272 river road, suite 530, bethesda, maryland 20816 • (301) 654-5339 • fax (301) 652-9533 • [wonderslearning.org](http://wonderslearning.org)

**To create and advance high quality, diverse educational communities that teach children the foundation of life-long learning and social responsibility.**

**BJC\_FAV\_SB401**

Uploaded by: Peterson, matt

Position: FAV

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American Red Magen David for Israel  
American Zionist Movement  
Amit Women  
Association of Reform Zionists of America  
Baltimore Board of Rabbis  
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation  
Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance  
Baltimore Men's ORT  
Baltimore Zionist District  
Beth Am Congregation  
Beth El Congregation  
Beth Israel Congregation  
Beth Shalom Congregation of  
Howard County  
Beth Tfiloh Congregation  
B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region  
B'nai Israel Congregation  
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Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.  
Chevrei Tzedek Congregation  
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Jewish Women International  
Jews For Judaism  
Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah  
Hebrew Congregation  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Ner Tamid Congregation  
Rabbinical Council of America  
Religious Zionists of America  
Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation  
Shomrei Eemunah Congregation  
Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society  
Suburban Orthodox Congregation  
Temple Beth Shalom  
Temple Isaiah  
Temple Oheb Shalom  
Winands Road Synagogue Center  
Zionist Organization of America  
Baltimore District



## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### Senate Bill 401

### Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)

### Judicial Proceedings

### Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

February 12, 2020

### SUPPORT

**Background:** Senate Bill 401 (SB401) would require that all signage for single-occupancy restrooms in public buildings and places of public accommodation, use gender inclusive symbols that do not use pictorial representations and contains only descriptive language, such as “restroom” or “bathroom.”

**Written Comments:** This simple change in the law makes single occupancy restrooms more inclusive and more accommodating for those with special needs. Caretakers can often feel excluded from being able to accompany those who they are assisting into a restroom, when this is one of the places they are needed most. This law has already been enacted in counties and municipalities in Maryland, as well as states across the country. This law does not require restrooms to be altered in any way, and simply lays out how signage must look so that everyone can feel comfortable when using a single-occupancy restroom.

The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies, including Jewish Community Services (JCS), Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI) and CHANA. All of these organizations provide services to Maryland’s rapidly growing aging populations. As we see this segment of the population grow, policies like this will only continue to be more necessary.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of SB401.

*The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.*

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

5750 Park Heights Avenue, Suite 329 • Baltimore, Maryland 21215  
410-542-4850 • fax 410-542-4834 • baltjc.org

Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated

The logo for The Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore, featuring a circular emblem with a menorah and the text "The Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore".

# **NGBTQ Task Force\_FAV\_SB401**

Uploaded by: Rodriguez-Roldan, Victoria

Position: FAV



February 12, 2020  
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: Maryland Bill SB401

To whom it may concern,

The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund (Task Force) is the oldest national organization advocating for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people and their families, in the country. We offer this letter in support of SB401 and urge its swift passage through the Senate and House.

Currently, transgender people face pervasive systemic discrimination and marginalization across the board of society. Large amounts experience discrimination and bullying in schools, where they're often pressured into dropping out or into depression and PTSD. Likewise, further down the road, it becomes much harder to acquire employment because of workplace discrimination. In the case of public accommodations discrimination, one of the most common spaces where this happens is in the case of public restrooms.

To give some weight to this matter, 24% of transgender people have experienced somebody questioning or challenging their presence in a restroom, whereas one in eight were harassed or assaulted for trying to use the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity. The vast majority of these incidences took place in public spaces such as restaurants, movie theaters, etc. This is a direct result of having gendered restrooms that lend themselves towards exclusion and giving people the power to police who gets to use what restroom.

This is especially true for non-binary people and others who do not identify as male or female within the gender binary. At a time that the State of Maryland now allows for non-binary gender markers in its licenses and ID documents, it should provide for as many restrooms to be accessible for non-binary people. Because of this, we would like to go on record as supporting that gender-neutral restroom markers do not contain the traditional male/female logos, but instead simply say "restroom" so as to not enforce the exclusion of the gender binary that the State of Maryland is committed to ending through its ID document laws.

Finally, it should be noted that this bill is not just for transgender people, but it also impacts people with disabilities who need personal care attendants and assistance to use the restroom. In the case of many, their aides may be opposite-gendered (especially when it's a family member), and will have to come in with them. Not creating as many gender-neutral restrooms as possible creates access concerns for many people with disabilities.



1325 Massachusetts Ave. NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005  
P: 202.393.5177  
F: 202.393.2241

For this and many other reasons, we recommend the passage of SB401. Should you have further questions or concerns, you may reach Victoria M. Rodríguez-Roldán, director of the Trans/GNC and Disability Justice Projects, at either [vrodriguezroldan@thetaskforce.org](mailto:vrodriguezroldan@thetaskforce.org), or 202-639-6328.

Victoria M. Rodríguez-Roldán, J.D.

# **MCPS BOE\_FAV\_SB0401**

Uploaded by: SUSSKIBD, MCPS BOE

Position: FAV



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

**BILL:** SB0401 (Cross filed with HB1147)  
**TITLE:** Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)  
**DATE:** 2/12/2020  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings  
**CONTACT:** Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs  
[Danielle M Susskind @mcpsmd.org](mailto:Danielle_M_Susskind@mcpsmd.org)

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** SB0401.

This particular bill requires the appropriate gender-inclusive signage that does not use a pictorial representation for single-occupancy public restrooms. The bill does not apply to primary or secondary education facilities. It also requires the county or municipality to set fines for facilities that serve the general public to have the appropriate signage installed by October 1, 2020.

This bill aligns with MCPS policies and practices and supports inclusion for all.

For these reasons, the Board **supports** this legislation and urges a favorable report.

**MML\_FWA\_SB401**

Uploaded by: Fiore, Justin

Position: FWA



Maryland Municipal League  
*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

TESTIMONY

February 12, 2020

**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings

**Bill:** SB 401 – Place of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings – Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms – Availability (The Accessible to All Act)

**Position:** Support with Amendment

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports SB 401 with an amendment to remove municipalities from the enforcement provisions of the bill. The legislation broadly defines “single-occupancy public restrooms” and requires that any new bathroom signage 1) does not use a pictorial representation; and 2) contains only descriptive language, such as the words “restroom” or “bathroom”. The bill would also require municipalities to enforce these provisions.

MML’s membership has no concerns complying with the bill’s signage requirements on bathrooms owned and operated by cities and towns.

However, the League suggests amending municipalities out of the enforcement provisions of the bill. Maryland’s municipalities, by and large, do not perform the same routine inspections that counties perform – we do not have the staff capabilities. This would especially be true of SB 401 given the large universe of restrooms to which it would apply and the difficulty of establishing a database of restroom signs that pre-date the October 1, 2020 effective date.

The League therefore respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 401 with a favorable report with the appropriate amendment.

**20-307**

**(C) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE, A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS**

**SECTION FOR EACH PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION.**

**(D) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH COUNTY ~~OR MUNICIPALITY~~ MAY SET A CIVIL FINE OR SERIES OF CIVIL FINES TO BE ISSUED TO A PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION THAT VIOLATES SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

**(2) IN SETTING FINES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY MAY NOT SET A FINE THAT EXCEEDS:**

**(I) FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, A WARNING;**

**(II) FOR A SECOND VIOLATION, A FINE OF \$100; AND**

**(III) FOR A SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION, A FINE OF \$250.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a county ~~or municipality~~ may not enforce the provisions governing single-occupancy restrooms in places of public accommodation, established under Section 1 of this Act, until 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Scott A. Hancock  
Candace L. Donoho  
Bill Jorch  
Justin Fiore

Executive Director  
Government Relations Specialist  
Manager, Government Relations & Research  
Manager, Government Relations

# **MCCR\_Info\_SB401**

Uploaded by: Dove, Spencer

Position: INFO



# State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

*“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”*



## *Officers*

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Cleveland L. Horton II, Deputy Director  
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Rabbi Binyamin Marwick  
Gina McKnight-Smith, PharmD, MBA  
Shawn M. Wright, Esq.

February 12, 2020

## **Senate Bill 401 - Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act) Letter of Information**

Dear Chairpersons Smith and Pinsky, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings and Education, Health & Environmental Affairs committees:

The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (“MCCR”; “The Commission”) is the State agency responsible for the enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and state contracts based upon race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, and physical and mental disability.

Senate Bill 401 requires that single-occupancy bathrooms have signage posted that does not use pictorial representation, and only uses descriptive language, such as the words “restroom” or “bathroom”. Counties and municipalities are charged with enforcing the bill’s provisions for places of public accommodation within their respective jurisdictions, and the bill authorizes the counties and municipalities to set and collect fines (with caps) to cover the costs associated with enforcing this bill.

While the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights is supportive of initiatives to enhance inclusivity across the State, MCCR is concerned about the bill’s mandate on counties and municipalities being placed in Title 20 of the State Government Article (“SGA Title 20”). Currently, MCCR has sole authority to enforce the State’s anti-discrimination laws enshrined in SGA Title 20. There exists no qualifier within SGA Title 20 granting units of local government the authority to enforce any provision of SGA Title 20. By inserting a provision to be enforced by local governments within SGA Title 20, MCCR is concerned that the provision may be overlooked by those entities charged with enforcement. Therefore, MCCR respectfully suggests that these provisions would be better placed in the Local Government Article. This would ensure that the bill’s provisions are clearly accessible to counties and municipalities in a section of the Maryland Code that is reserved for mandates placed on their respective units of government.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter. The Maryland Commission on Civil Rights looks forward to the continued opportunity to work with you to improve and promote civil rights in Maryland.

**MDOD\_INFO\_SB401**

Uploaded by: Hall, Elizabeth

Position: INFO

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary  
Christian J. Miele, Deputy Secretary

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor



DATE: February 12, 2020

BILL: Senate Bill 401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)

COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chairs Smith and Pinsky,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of information for Senate Bill 401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act) in regard to people with disabilities.

Under SB 401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act), a single-occupancy public restroom in a place of public accommodation is marked with gender-inclusive signage. This bill would allow people with disabilities the ability to access restrooms based on proximity, not gender. In addition, it would alleviate any confusion when a person with disabilities requires assistance in the bathroom and the person assisting them is of a different gender.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Hall, Director of Interagency Affairs, (410)767-3652, [elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary