



David Fogel
Bump 'n Grind
1200 East West Highway
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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