

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty".

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary