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The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony of Trans Maryland

IN SUPPORT OF

Senate Bill #293: County Boards of Education - Antibias Training for Members - Requirement (County Board Member Antibias Training Act)

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Trans Maryland is a multi-racial, multi-gender, trans-led community power building organization dedicated to Maryland's trans community. Trans Maryland believes in protecting the rights of all Marylanders, particularly transgender community members, to have access to a quality education free of discrimination, whether it be on the basis of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, national origin, native language, disability, or religion.

County Boards of Education play a particularly crucial role in ensuring that discrimination is not welcome in Maryland's schools, because it is in their hands to not only oversee what is happening in their county schools, but to also set county-wide policies. Yet, all too often, members of our County Boards of Education are left out of the room when best practices for combatting institutional discrimination and bias are discussed. The recurring antibias training required under Senate Bill 293 will ensure that these elected officials have this crucial training, putting them into a position better-suited to understand the real struggles faced by marginalized students, faculty, and staff within our school systems.

For these reasons, Trans Maryland encourages a favorable report on Senate Bill 293.