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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2025

To: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our unanimous support for SB540: Common Ownership Communities – Recreational Common Areas – Sensitive Information as Condition for Access. This important legislation prohibits common ownership communities from requiring individuals to provide sensitive documents or personal information as a condition for accessing recreational common areas.

Women and families, particularly those in Maryland's diverse communities, rely on these shared spaces for recreation, relaxation, and social engagement. These recreational areas—such as pools, playgrounds, and community centers—serve as essential outlets for women and children to engage in healthy, active lifestyles, while fostering a sense of community. Unfortunately, the practice of requiring sensitive documents or personal information for access creates unnecessary barriers for families, particularly those who may already face challenges in managing personal data security or privacy concerns.

SB540 is a critical step toward ensuring that women and children, who often bear the responsibility of managing family affairs, are not unfairly burdened by invasive requirements in order to utilize common spaces. The bill acknowledges the importance of maintaining privacy and dignity while ensuring that recreational areas remain accessible to all members of the community.

This legislation is an essential measure to promote equity, privacy, and fairness for Maryland families. We believe SB540 will prevent unnecessary obstacles and help families continue to enjoy the community spaces they depend on for social well-being and quality of life.

We respectfully urge the **Judicial Proceedings Committee** to issue a **favorable report** for SB540. By supporting this legislation, we take an important step toward protecting the privacy of Maryland families, especially women and children, and ensuring that our shared recreational spaces remain open, welcoming, and accessible to all.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued dedication to improving the lives of Marylanders.