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**LETTER OF SUPPORT
HOUSE BILL 612**

February 18, 2025

Chair Atterbeary:

On behalf of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, we are writing to express our support of **HB612: Public Schools - Lifesaver Schools Program - Establishment**. As advocates and stewards of the LGBTQ+ community, we believe this bill will protect, strengthen and secure LGBTQ+ rights for all LGBTQ+ residents. The benefits and effects from passing the proposed legislation will create a positive and long-lasting change for all of Maryland.

HB612 would establish a Lifesavers School Designation, which would create a Lifesaver Schools Designation for schools that offer students and staff evidence-based training on first aid, a mental health wellness program or peer mentoring program, and mental health resources. This bill has been introduced in the past two sessions and has no opposition and no fiscal note. This bill is led by the students saying they need it in schools. We also are aware that students who identify as LGBTQ+ need support from their peers and could need additional resources that this bill would provide.

Thank you for considering the bill's positive effects on the LGBTQ+ community. Please reach out to us regarding any additional questions or concerns on the bill. We appreciate your efforts in fostering community and furthering rights for all Marylanders.

Respectfully,

Delegate Kris Fair
Chair