

KAPOW Group

ANNAPOLIS

12 February 2020

Senate Bill 401: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Building –
Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability

Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for taking my testimony today. I am sorry I am unable to attend in person. My name is Jody Danek and I am a partner in an Annapolis restaurant group that includes Lemongrass Modern Thai Cuisine (959 Ritchie Highway, Arnold), Tsunami Annapolis (51 West Street, Annapolis) and Market House (25 Market Space, Annapolis).

About four or five years ago, before the publicity about gender-neutral bathrooms became a “thing,” we made the decision to take our single-commode restrooms at our Tsunami Annapolis restaurant from Male and Female to unisex M/F. We changed the sign and never heard a word from a single person. Our restroom at Lemongrass in Arnold has always been gender neutral. At Market House and Lemongrass Annapolis, the bathrooms are multi-stall and so we have left them gendered.

From my experience in business, there is no downside to making single-commode bathrooms unisex. I support Senate Bill 401.

Thank you.

Jody Danek