

**Testimony Concerning HB 706**  
**“Commission on LGBTQ Affairs in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives”**  
**Introduced on January 30, 2020**  
**Hearing on February 25 to the House Health and Government Operations Committee**

**Position: Support**

Dear Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is James Allfisher, MA, RPSGT, and I support the creation of a commission on LGBTQ affairs in the Governor’s office of community initiatives. With the recent creation in August 2018 of Pennsylvania’s own commission on LGBTQ affairs, this is a moment for Maryland to join in as leaders for the rest of the country. This marginalized population is more likely to be homeless, more likely to receive insufficient healthcare, and more likely to commit suicide, among a litany of other social woes. A commission dedicated to their wellbeing will bring us closer to ensuring basic rights are met and human dignity is preserved. This is difficult to do without the consultation of experts and stakeholders because many of the ways LGBTQ people are marginalized can be invisible to the general population.

I urge you to support House Bill 706 to establish a commission on LGBTQ affairs.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Allfisher'.

James Allfisher, MA, RPSGT  
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