

Testimony Concerning HB 1010
“Health Care Facilities – Discrimination (LGBTQ Senior Bill of Rights)”
Submitted to The House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 5, 2020

Position: Support

Dear Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is James Allfisher, MA, RPSGT and I am writing today in support of HB 1010. This bill is beneficial to LGBTQ individuals for a number of explicit ways. By joining the twenty-one other states that have already created such protections, Maryland makes a statement about its commitment to the rights of all of its citizens. In the 29 other states where protections are not yet in place, LGBTQ Americans see greater disparities in income, health insurance, and other social institutions such as adoption (Hasenbuch et al, 2014).

However, HB 1010 also helps more than just LGBTQ seniors in residential living arrangements. In order to increase privacy for the most vulnerable minorities, it requires facilities use visual barriers like doors or curtains to be available for all residents when they are in a position to be less than fully clothed. In this way, this bill helps promote the dignity of everyone in Maryland.

Public policy research has confirmed that LGBTQ issues stand apart from other policy areas such as economics and regulatory issues and engage voters to a higher level because they are perceived to be more salient (Poggione, 2019). For this reason, your votes on this bill will be readily noticed by your constituents and it is in your best interest to give it your full attention. Please help us make Maryland’s laws match its conscience.

I urge you to support House Bill 1010 to protect LGBTQ seniors from discrimination.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Allfisher, MA, RPSGT
MSN Entry Summer 2020
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

Hasenbush, A., Flores, A., Kastanis, A., Sears, B., & Gates, G. (2014). The LGBT divide: A data portrait of LGBT people in the Midwestern, Mountain & Southern states.

Poggione, S. (2019). State-Level Public Opinion and Public Policy on LGBT Issues. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.