



February 12, 2020

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

We are writing in **SUPPORT of SB0401: The Accessible to All Act - Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability**

This bill would require that single-occupancy public restrooms be marked with gender-inclusive signage. This would provide a safe and accessible public restroom for anyone, regardless of gender. We believe in creating welcoming and accepting spaces for everyone, including public accommodations for transgender and gender-expansive individuals.

Sex-segregated bathrooms can be dangerous places for someone who identifies outside of the binary or anywhere on the gender spectrum. According to a study done by the National Center for Transgender Equality, more than 60% of transgender individuals avoid the use of public bathrooms out of fear of harassment and ridicule. The transgender community deserves the same rights and safety as anyone else. Something so simple as using a public bathroom can be the source of immense anxiety and fear for a community already at great risk.

Single-occupancy bathrooms not only benefit transgender people but can also accommodate single mothers, young children, families, and those with disabilities that require a larger stall. Occupying public spaces is something we all take for granted until we enter a space that is not meant for us. Using public bathrooms comfortably and safely is something we should all have access to.

We urge you to support The Accessible to All Act and make public spaces more inclusive for everyone.

We believe that together, we can achieve equality for all.

Thank you,

Nicolle Campa She | Her | Hers  
Metro DC PFLAG  
Board President

Mark Eckstein He | Him | His  
Metro DC PFLAG  
MD Advocacy Chair

David Fishback He | Him | His  
Metro DC PFLAG  
MD Advocacy Chair

[www.pflagdc.org](http://www.pflagdc.org)

Keeping Families Together!

Metro DC PFLAG is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, volunteer organization founded in 1983 and oversees sixteen (16) PFLAG Community Groups across Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia. As a chapter of PFLAG, we strive to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and their families and friends through support, education, and advocacy to end discrimination and secure equal rights.