



**Testimony Concerning SB0401/HB1147– Places of Public
Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public
Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)**

**Submitted to the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee**

February 12, 2020

Position: Support

The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is a non-profit association advocating on behalf of approximately 4600 registered family child care providers in Maryland that are an important part of the child care delivery system. Registered family child care providers in Maryland care for a significant number of Maryland’s children and typically work alone in mixed-age group settings. For this reason, we ask that you Favorably Support SB401/HB1147.

Many of our members operate early education programs that field trips to enhance the educational experience of their young learners. During these excursions, bathroom usage is difficult since most programs have mixed-gender groups of children, this makes taking care of the bathroom needs of all the children in a well-supervised manner stressful. Young boys of all ages are many times uncomfortable and apprehensive to use the “Women’s” bathroom, and because providers do not generally have a male helper, this is a challenge. SB0401/HB1147 will help alleviate this problem because the bathroom signage will be changed from *Women’s* or *Men’s* room, to *Restroom* in all single-user public restrooms in Maryland. This change will make it much more accommodating for the provider and less stressful for our children. Because venturing outside of the daily child care setting is beneficial for the children and can expose them to so many wonderful places in our communities, this change would positively impact our programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our Support on this Bill and we ask again that you strongly support SB0401/HB1147, Places of Public Accommodation and Public Building – Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms – Availability (The Accessible to All Act). For any further questions feel free to contact Rebecca Hancock, the MSFCCA Vice President of Public Policy at (301) 934-1795.