

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
General Assembly of Maryland
2E Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
Will.Smith@Senate.State.MD.US

Feb 11, 2020

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

Dear Senator Smith,

I write to express my support of SB0401 which would require single-occupancy restrooms to be marked with gender-inclusive signage. I am the president of a nonprofit child care center that serves up to 176 children and their families from infants through pre-k. As a former representative of child care providers in both elected and appointed capacities, I have testified regularly about the critical need for more state funding to better support parental needs for quality child care. I often oppose bills, even when they are well intentioned, that impose unfunded mandates on child care programs because such bills have the effect of making our child care crisis worse rather than better.

However, with this bill, I reached out to a group of over 1000 child care directors from across Maryland and received feedback of strong support for this bill. Child care providers care deeply about inclusivity and making all families, staff, and children feel comfortable & welcome in our facilities. Our single stall bathrooms are already typically available for all of the children. Single occupancy adult bathrooms are most often available for any user as needed.

Thus, as I agree with the inclusivity goals of this bill, believe the impact to current child care programs would be minimal, and obtained support from other child care providers, I support this bill.

Sincerely,



Shaun M. Rose
Montgomery County, MD
Shaun@RockSpringCC.com