



SB-993: Written Testimony - SUPPORT

February 20, 2020

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

We are writing on behalf of PFLAG-MetroDC in **support of SB0993** (*County Boards and Public and Nonpublic Prekindergarten Programs and Schools - Discrimination - Prohibition*); this bill would prohibit discrimination — on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity — in K-12 public schools, and in schools that receive public funding.

These specific protections extended to students in the LGBTQ+ community are crucial; students often are very vulnerable and can face discrimination based on their identity. Enumerated protections are needed to ensure LGBTQ+ students receive the same equal treatment as their peers.

Everyone deserves a safe and equal learning environment; we urge you to support this bill so that Maryland's school can have written anti-discrimination policies to protect students. It is important to set a standard of equality and acceptance for our students.

We ask for a **Favorable Report on SB0993**.

Thank you,

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

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

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