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MAYOR

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HB 130

March 16, 2021

TO: Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 130 – Commission on LGBTQ Affairs - Establishment

POSITION: Support

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) supports House Bill (HB) 130.

HB 130 establishes a Commission on LGBTQ Affairs within the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives. The commission would be tasked with representing, identifying and communicating the interests and priorities of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities across the State, and collaborating with stakeholders to advance policy and program initiatives in line with those priorities. The fifteen-member body will be required include at least two (2) transgender members and shall be representative of the many identities found within the State’s diverse LGBTQ community.

The Commission on LGBTQ Affairs will be a key partner in addressing the harms and inequities which are an undeserved yet consistent reality for Marylanders who bravely and peacefully live beyond our society’s developed norms and expectations about gender and sexuality. Establishing this Commission is an important signal of affirmation and inclusion, and an important step in ensuring all Marylanders can experience a high quality of life, free from stigma, shame or fear.

The BCA respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 130.