HB0130 Commission on LGBTQ Affairs Legislative Ale Uploaded by: Clapsaddle, Joseph

Position: FAV



SUPPORT HB 0130

Commission on LGBTQ Affairs--Established Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Good afternoon Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, members of the Senate Education,
Health and Environment Affairs Committee. My name is Joseph Clapsaddle, a resident of
Arnold and an Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission Commissioner. Today, I
represent the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN). The MEPPN is here on
behalf of the Maryland Episcopal Diocese that represents 108 parishes and over 45,000
parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. The MEPPN
HB 130.

This bill establishes the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI). The commission will assess the challenges facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities. In addition, it will collect data across State agencies on the implementation of LGBTQ-inclusive policies and complaints alleging discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This information will allow the Commission to complete an assessment of laws and other protections for LGBTQ workers and residents in Maryland. Such a Commission can serve as a place where people in Maryland throughout Maryland can find information pertaining their region.

Presently, we do not know the extent of discrimination against LGBTQ workers and residents in Maryland. This Commission will have the authority to investigate and make public the extent of any such discrimination.

We respectfully request a favorable report.

HB 130 - PGCEX - FAV.pdfUploaded by: Alsobrooks, Angela Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 130 – Commission on LGBTQ Affairs –

Established

SPONSOR: Delegate Qi

HEARING DATE: March 16, 2021

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive SUPPORTS House Bill 130 – Commission on LGBTQ Affairs – Established, which establishes the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI). The commission must assess the challenges facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities; collect data across State agencies on the implementation of LGBTQ-inclusive policies and complaints alleging discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity; study and establish best practices for inclusion of LGBTQ individuals and communities; work with local governments to pass laws that are inclusive of LGBTQ individuals; and publish an annual report, and any other material the commission considers necessary, that includes recommendations on policies for LGBTQ adults and youth that work to end discriminatory practices in the State.

The Prince George's County Human Relations Commission (HRC) encourages growth and development of equal opportunity for all people and discourages discrimination and differential treatment among individuals based on a protected class (which includes sex and sexual orientation). As an agency focused on human rights, this Bill is important to HRC because it gathers pertinent information for the LGBTQ community in terms of policies, practices, and trends in an effort to produce reports and make recommendations on policies. HRC is currently pushing for legislation to include gender identity as a protected class to highlight discriminatory actions that could occur against an individual in an effort to grant additional protections to our citizens.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive strongly **SUPPORTS House Bill 130** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

HB 130- Commission on LGBTQ Affairs XFile - FAV -

Uploaded by: Dove, Tina

Position: FAV



140 Main Street Annapolis, MD 21401 800 448 6782 410 263 6600

marylandeducators.org

Testimony in Support of House Bill 130 Commission on LGBTQ Affairs—Established

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee March 16, 2021 1:00 pm

> Tina N. Dove, M.Ed. **Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 130, legislation that would establish the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 millionmember National Education Association (NEA).

According to the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives' website, "The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) engages Maryland communities through the governor's seven ethnic and cultural commissions to deliver the voices of Marylanders to the Hogan administration, connect the administration with Marylanders, and alert the administration about real-time needs of communities in Maryland." Those ethnic commissions are: GOCI on African Affairs, GOCI Asian Pacific American Affairs, GOCI Hispanic Affairs, GOCI Middle Eastern American Affairs, GOCI South Asian American Affairs, and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. Their purpose is to, "...work together with the [GOCI] to connect Marylanders from their respective communities to state resources and to advise [the governor] on the needs of their communities. The commissions also work to celebrate the culture, heritage, and history of their respective communities, and identify areas in which their communities can serve Maryland."

MSEA believes that every individual must be protected from all forms of discrimination and stereotyping based on race, religion, ethnicity, immigration status, age, occupation, disabilities, gender, gender identification, and sexual orientation. MSEA members have long fought to recognize, protect, and defend the rights of all citizens. We have advocated for the dignity and inclusion of all members of our human family and have sought to ensure that everyone has a voice to both tell their stories and to advocate for their needs and those of their respective communities. It is in keeping with this that we wholeheartedly support the establishment of the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs.





The educators who make up MSEA and the children and communities we serve reflect the wide diversity of our state. This diversity makes our union stronger. By establishing a formal entity representing the LGBTQ community within the COGI, Marylanders take a significant step toward ensuring our state reflects and realizes the value inherent in us all. In short, as we have seen in our union, we believe having this commission within our state government's structure ultimately makes our great state stronger.

MSEA enthusiastically urges a favorable report on House Bill 130.

2021 PPM HB 130 Senate Side.pdfUploaded by: Elliott, Robyn Position: FAV





Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 130

Title: Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

Hearing: March 16, 2021

Position: Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports *House Bill 130 – Commission on LGTBQ Affairs*. The bill creates an inclusive commission to advise the State on critical issues that impact the LGBTQ community. Planned Parenthood of Maryland supports this legislation because the Commission will provide a critical review of:

- Evaluating the challenges facing the LGBTQ community:
- Enhance relevant data collection by State agencies; and
- Determine best practices to support inclusion of LGBTQ individuals in communities.

We ask for a favorable vote on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-3443 or relliott@policypartners.net.

Comptroller's testimony on HB 130.pdf Uploaded by: Franchot, Comptroller

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support - House Bill 130 - Commission on LGBTQ Affairs - Established

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

March 16, 2021

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in <u>support</u> of House Bill 130 – Commission on LGBTQ Affairs – Established. I would like to thank Del. Qi for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

Representation matters and this legislation provides the opportunity to improve the representation and visibility of the LGBTQ community at the highest levels of state government. While LGBTQ rights have taken many steps forward over the last decade, there are still relatively few members of this community in prominent positions throughout the State of Maryland, and this legislation would take an affirmative step towards addressing that disparity.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a <u>favorable report</u> for House Bill 130. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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HB130-EHEA-FAV.pdfUploaded by: Mehu, Natasha Position: FAV



Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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.

HB0130 MD NARAL SUPPORT in EHEA.pdf Uploaded by: Philip, Diana

Position: FAV



HB0130 - Commission on LGBTQ Affairs - Established

Presented to the Hon. Paul Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee March 16, 2021 1:00 p.m.

POSITION: SUPPORT

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland **urges Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs** Committee a favorable report on HB0130– Commission on LGBTQ Affairs - Established, sponsored by Delegate Lily Qi.

Our organization is an advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice for all Marylanders. We seek to protect the rights of youth to feel safe and occupy public spaces free of gender-based harassment or sexual orientation bias. We recognize that youth are better able to make informed and independent decisions about their own sexual and reproductive lives when free of discrimination and stereotypes. When families are unsupportive, youth often turn to the networks they build in their communities to find affirmation and support. In order to build a supportive community, the true needs of LGBTQ individuals should be assessed and addressed, which HB0130 aims to do.

In 2018, a needs assessment was published in Maryland showing the biggest concerns for LGBTQ individuals included public harassment, healthcare, education, reliable employment, domestic violence, and sexual assault. This assessment was the first step in painting the cultural, societal, and political landscape of Maryland, and is helpful resource in arguing for the need of a statewide commission dedicated to addressing the longstanding issues of LGBTQ communities throughout our state.

Approximately 56% of respondents reported experiencing street harassment themselves, or have seen street harassment, with 27.4% reporting this harassment as a major issue affecting LGBTQ Marylanders. Harassment was also reported when using public facilities or filing reports with local law enforcement. The transgender community in particular has reported interactions with the Baltimore City Police Department as "degrading and dehumanizing."

In the realm of healthcare, 36.1% of respondents identified the lack of an inclusive healthcare facility being another critical issue affecting LGBTQ Marylanders. More than a quarter reported addressing HIV/AIDS to be one of the biggest health concerns. Many individuals reported experiencing discrimination when seeking healthcare, especially when seeking transition-related care. Access to reproductive healthcare that addresses the unique challenges of LGBTQ individuals is extremely limited throughout our state.

The next largest area of concern was education. The 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) found that 11.2% of all Maryland high school students identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, with little available data on transgender and gender nonconforming individuals. Unfortunately, the majority of Maryland LGBTQ students have heard anti-LGBTQ comments in their school, with 65% reporting mistreatment by peers and staff. Less than two-thirds of students could identify at least six LGBTQ supportive staff members.

Outside of education, LGBTQ individuals struggled finding reliable employment, with 45.4% reporting

discrimination at the workplace. Transgender and LGBTQ people of color were the most vulnerable to workplace discrimination, with 27% of transgender individuals reporting that they were fired or not hired due to their perceived gender identity.

Finally, LGBTQ Marylanders identified sexual assault and domestic violence to be an urgent issue. Black women and transgender individuals are more prone to violence and criminalization by the police force. Approximately 38% of respondents have reported that they or someone they know were victims of sexual assault and domestic violence due to their LGBTQ identity.

Our organization supports inclusion of every individual regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Without a supportive network, LGBTQ individuals are left in a society that is constantly discriminating or hindering personal success in Maryland. This discrimination effects all ages of LGBTQ individuals, and we believe that having a LGBTQ commission that is codified in Maryland will be the first step in supporting LGBTQ communities throughout our state.

HB0130 seeks to establish an LGBTQ commission with a diverse background, to better serve the needs of LGBTQ Marylanders. As such, it will allow more LGBTQ people across our state to thrive and realize their educational and career goals. For these reasons, **NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland urges a favorable committee report on HB0130.** Thank you for your time and consideration.

ⁱ Agostini, Saida M. (2018). Pushing Back: A Blueprint for Change. Lessons Learned from the 2016 Needs Assessment of LGBTQ Marylanders https://freestate-justice.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Pushing-Back-A-Blueprint-for-Change.pdf

ii Center for Disease Control. High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Maryland 2017 Results. Retrieved https://nccd.cdc.govyouthonline/app/Results.aspx?LID=MD

HB 130 - MDHTTF - SUPPORT - crossover.pdf Uploaded by: Wallerstedt, Anne

Position: FAV



BILL NUMBER: House Bill 130

TITLE: Commission on LGBTQ Affairs – Established **COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental

Affairs

HEARING DATE: March 16, 2021

POSITION: Support

The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MDHTTF) and its members respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 130, as it will help combat discrimination and marginalization of Maryland's LBGTQ citizens, therefore reducing vulnerability to victimization for this community, including human trafficking.

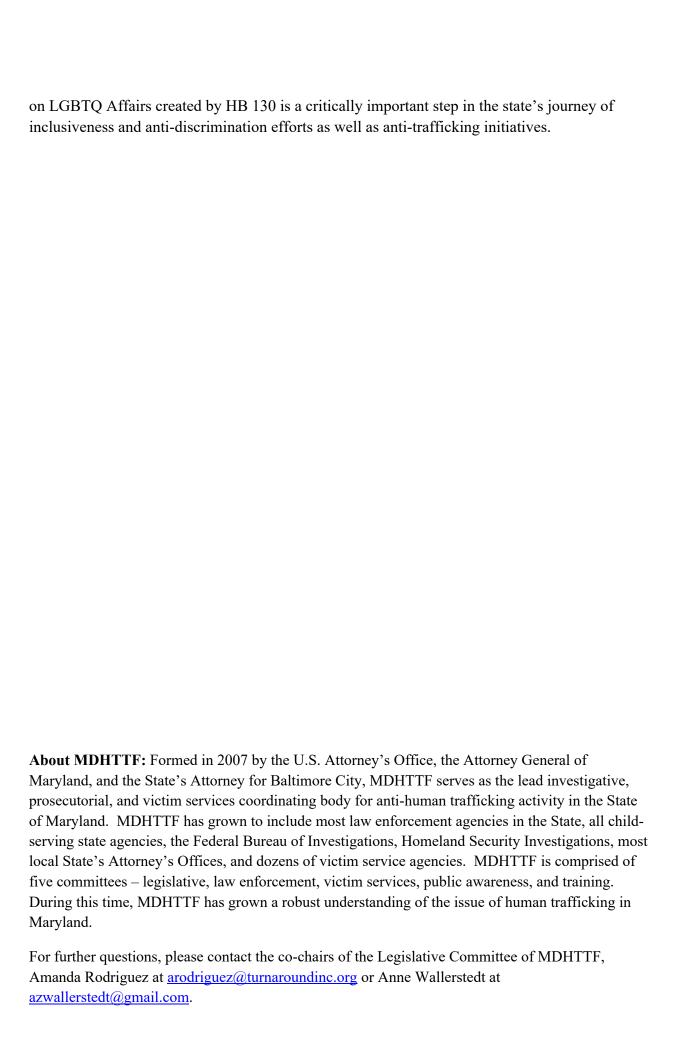
HB 130 creates a Commission on LGBTQ Affairs within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, tasked with assessing challenges faced by these communities, establishing best practices, collecting data on both discrimination and the implementation of LGBTQ-friendly policies, and working to pass laws inclusive of individuals identifying as LGBTQ.

MDHTTF supports efforts to dismantle human trafficking by strengthening laws to prosecute traffickers, providing services and rehabilitation to victims, and increasing awareness of the issue. Additionally, the task force seeks to prevent trafficking through reducing vulnerability to trafficking among underserved or marginalized communities. LGBTQ individuals, particularly youth, are at disproportionate risk for discrimination and homelessness, two factors that increase a person's risk to exploitation and trafficking. 1 It is important to note that a person's sexual orientation and/or gender identity do not inherently make them more vulnerable to human trafficking. However, the homophobia and transphobia that LBGTQ people face at individual and systemic levels cause disparities in access to housing, employment, medical care, which can leave them more vulnerable to traffickers. According to the Polaris Project, a nationwide antitrafficking organization, LGBTQ youth are "overrepresented among runaway and homeless youth populations, as they experience more frequent harassment, family rejection, violence and economic instability. LGBTQ youth often report challenges in locating and accessing services....Where basic needs of LGBTQ youth go unmet, young people may enter high-risk, poorly regulated employment sectors or provide commercial sex acts in exchange for basic necessities."2

There is a risk not only that these communities will be mis-served, but also that individuals identifying as LGBTQ will not come forward for help out of fear and distrust. Discrimination and prejudice are a very real barrier in the fight against human trafficking and the Commission

¹ Breaking Barriers: Improving Services for LBGTO Trafficking Victims, Polaris Project, 2015.

 $^{^{2}}$ Id.



UNfavorable for HB0130.pdfUploaded by: mcavoy, vince Position: UNF

UNfavorable for HB0130

vince mcavoy po box 41075 baltimore md

Dear Committee,

I urge an UNfavorable on HB130.

It is unseemly to create a **State-**created panel or commission for how people have sexual relations. Polygamy & a swingers "Commission" next? This bill aims to claim Marylanders somehow discriminate against others so that the "perception" by a sub-section of society (0.5% to 4%, depending upon source cited) of being discriminated on when in fact that sub-section has among the highest rates of mental illness, drug use and disordered lifestyles in society.

The State should not enter into a Commission promoting a sub-sector rife with depression, and a host of physical harm & disease. HIV, ruptured anal passages, drug abuse and other STDs are highest in this community. As is domestic violence; per CDC bisexuals & lesbians have the highest rates of domestic violence. And Planned Parenthood is encouraging transgenderism and profits from hormone treatments in children. Transgenderism promotes the amputation on children's viable, healthy body parts on children as young as THREE, sexualizing children before they can spell their own - as yet UNamputated - body parts. To celebrate this is to bring harm to our children. Some cultures are mute when it comes to harming children. In Maryland and the United States, we do NOT encourage HARMING CHILDREN!

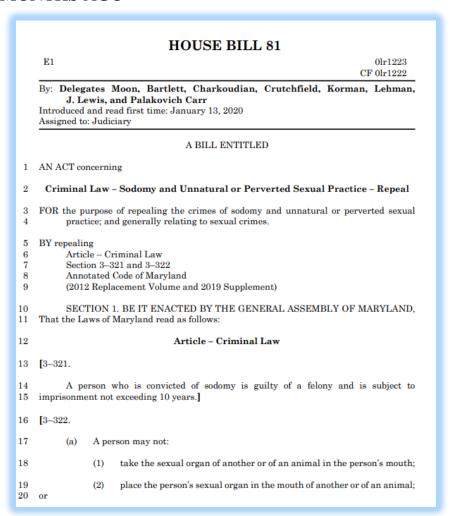
None of you are experts in family law. Few of you are devoutly religious. And politicians are well known for reacting to the "now", because they fear re-election issues and are **scared of controversy**.

If you've ever taken a moment to stop & think about how tragically messed up many our Maryland children are, vote this bill down.

If you ever stop & wonder -- when the world is coming unglued from executive overreach pushing our country into a horrible economic future, killing 30-40% of small businesses in Maryland -- ask yourself if this bill even **close** to what's important in Maryland right now.... who someone has sex with is a priority in the midst of a global crisis? Insanity.

Please do your job and vote down this bill.

Amongst this sub-section are those who developed said identities of this sub-sector while in prison (due to criminal behavior). And on the issue of criminal behavior, in Maryland, at this moment, these activities were considered felonies until FIVE MONTHS AGO



Bake the Cake

The recent trend of weaponizing legal suits against businesses, churches and traditional organizations has spurred frivolous suits reaching the U.S. Supreme Court. On page 2 of the bill (and elsewhere) the mention of "prohibit discrimination" has been translated in courts of forcing through legal coercion, financial coercion or criminally-assaultive behavior to ramrod people to adopt attitudes, efforts of expression or employment-tyranny. Such efforts have promoted SCOTUS hearings & decisions such as with a Colorado baker (i.e. – #BakeTheCake).

Finally, all Marylanders do not promote these variant lifestyles. The choice to not promote may be personal, it may be cultural, it may be spiritual, it may be seeing something as societally harmful. This is America. It is their right.

Though I got the zoom link & was signed up for oral testimony, <u>I was denied the</u> ability to speak on the bill. Is that how we treat those who disagree?

RE: !! Time Sensitive -- HB0130 in the Health and Government Operations on 1/14/2021 1:30:00 PM //
Fw: Invitation for Zoom Meeting



🖶 Thu, Jan 14 at 6:12 PM 🔺

It said sponsor only on the website!

From the website: All bills heard on January 14 will be sponsor only, meaning that no oral testimony will be heard aside from the sponsor of the bill.

This bill was CHANGED from last year & should have had a full hearing where nuances could be respectfully exchanged. The amendment to the bill will cause more transgenderism to be promoted in Maryland which will – not may – will HARM CHILDREN!

Since homosexuality, adultery, prostitution and pornography undermine the foundations of the <u>family</u>, the basis of society, the State is entitled to use its power to ban or limit them. The State has the duty to uphold public morality.

CULTURAL CHANGES in Maryland

In the past, Maryland has shown a multitude of bills clamoring for inclusivity. Maryland is among the most inclusive states in the Union.

CURRENT

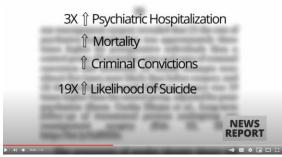
Transgender culture, processes & allowances in the medical & public sector are leading to profiteering from a body-part-amputation industry, under the guise of offering a panacea to children going thru the natural process of adolescence.

Dangers of the transgender movement well-documented

"More than half of transgender male teens who participated in surveys have reported attempting suicide in their lifetime...29.9% of transgender female teens said they had attempted suicide...

nonbinary youth, 41.8% of those tested stated that they have attempted suicide at some point of their lives...is the embodiment of self-hatred...[suicide rate] are off-the-charts high." https://youtu.be/iPLY2SqK7UE?t=240

What should be of interest to the House HGO is that only 2 years ago, the outcomes of transgender re-assignment were presented in an amicus to the U.S. Supreme Court, noting an "increased psychiatric hospitalization, a sharp increase in mortality as well as criminal convictions, with transgenders 19 times more likely to kill themselves."



https://youtu.be/ljL2RNa6 Xo

Trans Industry Profiteering

This fad is being promoted by Planned Parenthood, according to Wall Street Journal reporter Abigail Shrier, for profit through hormone treatment, bloodwork, and other opportunities for profit. https://youtu.be/2SPHcVP4sJw?t=48

FUTURE

Just consider the future where Drag Queen Story Hour for 3-year-old children in public schools and libraries. At these events, homosexual activists teach toddlers about unnatural behavior. As one drag queen openly confessed at a City Council Meeting in Lafayette, Louisiana: "This is going to be the grooming of the next generation."

https://youtu.be/QdnEnq-ocm0?t=218



Children in Danger

Being ignorant to the biological fact of a child's biological sex is a danger to children. The dangers lie in making a process so free of checks & balances that the process embraces indoctrination while removing self-reflection to minors who may be experiencing normal childhood challenges & pressures.

There is also danger in another sense, where those escaping the scrutiny of free association in a lockdown COVID era. Can we absolutely rule out these transgender procedures/treatments/surgeries may end up being done remotely in the absence of light on the process?

#ProtectJamesYounger

Take the case of James Younger in Texas. The case garnered the attention of Texas' Attorney General & Governor.



https://youtu.be/9sV2zeE4X08

A father was gravely concerned about the "sexual mutilation of his own son [while] all of his authority figures – his mother, his teacher, the librarian at school, the police officer at school, the principals at school – say he's a girl.....[James' father was] the only authority figure in his life that tells him the truth-- that he's a boy" https://youtu.be/Jdxc_chdwlo

The James Younger case involves the attempts of a child-indoctrinating, parental-alienating mother to transition her son (physically, culturally, biologically) into a girl at AGE THREE. Leaving the biological sex open to a non-binary option (children are male or female) could be used by any single-mother bent on fomenting a child custody case to evade the rightful child custody merits of a fit father. https://youtu.be/iPLY2SqK7UE?t=1310

And the possibility of the objective, scientifically-provable biological sex of a child being gas-lighted into something heinous will increase if this bill is passed.

To disregard the <u>known</u> consequences and ignore rightful projections related to the unintended consequences of misleading, lying as well as sexually & physically manipulating Maryland's own children for the benefit of an extremely small, child-amputating sector is wrongful.

Inclusive Maryland Agencies



State websites detail non-discrimination as do the other businesses and organizations throughout the state.

The Reality

In Maryland, we are among the most inclusive states in the Union. This is echoed at federal level and state level. NO class, no type, no individual will be free of bad days and wrongful people. That does not mean a law needs to be passed nor can any law make everyone's day free of malice, greed, discourtesy or even evil from mean-spirited people. Sometimes these things happen for no reason. Sometimes because people bring this upon themselves with an entitled attitude. Marylanders should not be surprised that a group who experiences higher (to much higher) than normal addiction, personality disorders, mental illness and drug abuse also experiences a spirit of oppression, victimhood or depression. We treat this subsector well.

I urge an unfavorable on providing special privileges based on how someone has sex. Maryland's societal bonds are based on human family, not animal nature.