



Secular Maryland

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March 17, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SUPPORT HB1088 (SB0768) Nondiscrimination and LGBTQ+ Individuals

Chairwoman and Members of the Committee

Secular Maryland appeals for passage of this important bill that prohibits discrimination on the basis of certain nonmerit factors, including race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. This prohibition applies in the Courts and Judicial proceedings §1-801, Family Law §1-204, Housing and Community Development §2-401, and Human Services §1-301 contexts. This prohibition is also applied to contractors and grantees in the State Government §20-901 context. This aligns state law with the U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection clause.

Secular Maryland particularly welcomes the much needed prohibition on discrimination based on creed. The state constitution Declaration of Rights perversely targets non-theists for discrimination instead of protecting non-theists from discrimination.



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