



Indivisible: Central Maryland

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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0768 - AN ACT Concerning Nondiscrimination and LGBTQ+ Individuals

Bill Sponsor: Senator Washington

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Central Maryland

Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, advocate

Position: FAVORABLE

Indivisible Central Maryland is an unpaid, volunteer grassroots organization of constituents residing in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County and Prince George's County who are dedicated to protecting progressive and democratic values. **Indivisible Central Maryland strongly supports SB0768**, which would add protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and non-gender-conforming persons in courts, public offices, and public services in the state of Maryland. For the last four years, Indivisible Central Maryland advocated for codifying protections for LGBTQ+ individuals because a presidential executive order (EO 13798) on Conscience and Religious Freedom gave health care providers, adoption agencies, and government agencies the ability to deny services to LGBTQ+ individuals on the basis of their sexual and gender identity if the provider cited a religious or conscience-driven belief that these individuals offend the provider. This EO was used to pervert the office of civil rights to give preferential treatment to those who would discriminate, not those who were being discriminated against.

SB0786 would protect Marylanders from any future anti-LGBTQ+ executive orders by codifying the protections into law here in Maryland. As equal, functional and beloved family members and members of our community, our LGBTQ+ Marylanders deserve to be treated with respect and fairness in health care settings, adoption procedures, courts of law, and in interactions with government. As well, we support the provision in the bill for training those who interact with the public to understand and enact the provisions in this bill.

For all these reasons, Indivisible Central Maryland strongly **SUPPORTS SB0768**. We recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee. With questions, please call Liz Enagonio at 301-351-6451.

Liz Enagonio, advocate, on behalf of Indivisible Central Maryland

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