



March 9, 2021

Senate Bill 768
Nondiscrimination and LGBTQ+ Individuals
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

The Anne Arundel County Administration **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 768 - Nondiscrimination and LGBTQ+ Individuals. This bill would ensure that it is the policy of the State of Maryland to provide equal access to its services to LGBTQ+ individuals, and ensure they are protected from discrimination on the basis of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Anne Arundel County is committed to fighting hate and discrimination in all forms. SB 768 would help ensure that our LGBTQ+ residents are able to access critical, essential government services, including housing, food, and healthcare, without fear of being discriminated against and turned away because of their identity. Ensuring all our residents can access these services is critical, especially so for LGBTQ+ residents, who often experience increased rates of harassment, violence, and homelessness.

This bill would also ensure appropriate training is provided to employees and contractors of various State agencies and departments, ensuring that our LGBTQ+ residents are not only able to access these critical services, but are able to do so in a welcoming environment free from the fear of judgement. We believe that this legislation is critical to help eliminate hate and discrimination in our communities, a key step in helping us make Anne Arundel County The Best Place - For All.

For those reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 768.