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Environment and
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 23, 2022

RE: Testimony HB182 – State Procurement – Certification of LGBTQ Businesses

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Budget and Taxation,

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce, testifying on **HB182 - State Procurement – Certification of LGBTQ Businesses**. HB182 requires the state to post and maintain a list of certified LGBTQ+ businesses in Maryland with the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs.

Currently **Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and California**, and a host of cities (14) already have recognized certified LGBT Business Certified Enterprises (LGBTBES) with the following states in the process to recognize LGBTBES: Oregon, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut, and Illinois.

In November of **2019, Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) approved policy** to include The National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) Certified LGBT Business Enterprises® (Certified LGBTBES®) in contracting and procurement opportunities. Our very own Maryland LGBT Chamber of Commerce is a proud local affiliated chamber of NGLCC. In 2018 our very own **Baltimore City, through Executive Order 2018-02**, recognized LGBTQ-Owned business entities, those with 51% or more ownership by LGBTQ+ individuals. In 2021, the City of Baltimore moved to codify the executive order with **city ordinance 21-0033** by Councilwoman Odette Ramos. The ordinance is expected to be heard in committee in February.

With more diverse providers, **Maryland can achieve statewide goals and save taxpayer's dollars** by creating greater competition while driving down bid prices. LGBT business owners add \$1.7 Trillion to the US economy.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my constituent, Terrance Threweatt, who submitted this bill request in honor of this brother, Imari, who passed away. Imari designed and sold gender-affirming apparel for transmen.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB182. I urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Regina T. Boyce'.

Regina T. Boyce