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Baltimore, MD 21207

TO: Economic Matters Committee
FROM: LeadingAge Maryland
SUBJECT: House Bill 572, Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)
DATE: February 16, 2022
POSITION: **Favorable**

LeadingAge Maryland supports House Bill 572, Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act).

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of more than 135 not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. Our mission is to expand the world of possibilities for aging in Maryland. We partner with consumers, caregivers, researchers, public agencies, faith communities and others who care about aging in Maryland.

House Bill 572 requires public restrooms to include gender-inclusive signs. Other states have passed similar laws. The benefit reaches beyond what some may consider controversial issues. Such a law would be impactful for frail older adults who need toileting assistance and may have caretakers of the opposite gender, such as spouses. Passage of House Bill 1147 would provide seniors with the dignity they deserve.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for House Bill 572.

For more information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield, 410.446.1992