



Testimony in Support
HB 572 - Places of Public Accommodations and Public Buildings –
Gender Inclusive Signage
Economic Matters
February 16, 2022
By Ken Capone

Background: People On the Go Maryland builds community through diversity and inclusion. We respect the individuality of our members and are committed to making inclusion a priority so that everyone feels comfortable, valued, and heard. People On the Go remains distinct by maintaining a cross-disability strategy that focuses on effecting positive change in the lives of people with and without disabilities.

Rationale: We are testifying in support of HB 572 Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Gender-Inclusive Signage. I, along with many people with disabilities require daily supports. Like many people with disabilities do, I have 2 direct support professionals of the opposite gender who assist me with my daily needs. When we go out and I have to go to the bathroom I usually have to wait until I get home if there's only gender specific bathrooms available and that's not good for anybody to have to wait to go to the bathroom. But if there were gender neutral bathrooms available I, with my direct support staff would feel comfortable going in. We are appreciative of the sponsor's inclusion of language requiring both text and symbol on any sign. This enables all members of the public to quickly identify the location of an appropriate bathroom facility.

Thank you