



February 15, 2022

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

We are writing in **SUPPORT of SB486** - Inclusive Public Restrooms.

This bill would require that single-occupancy public restrooms be marked with gender-inclusive signage, and would provide a safe and accessible public restroom for anyone, regardless of gender. We believe in creating welcoming and affirming spaces for everyone, including public accommodations for transgender and gender-expansive individuals.

Sex-segregated bathrooms can be dangerous places for someone who identifies outside of traditional gender roles. According to a study done by the National Center for Transgender Equality, more than 60% of transgender individuals avoid the use of public restrooms out of fear of harassment and ridicule. Something so simple as using a public restroom can be the source of immense anxiety and fear for an already vulnerable and marginalized community.

Single-occupancy restrooms not only benefit transgender people but can also accommodate single-mothers, young children, families, elderly, and those with disabilities. Occupying public spaces is something which we all take for granted ... until we enter a space that is not meant for us. Using public restrooms comfortably and safely is something all Marylanders deserve.

We urge a **Favorable Report SB486**.

Thank you,

Nicolle Campa She|Her
Board President

Mark Eckstein He|Him
Advocacy Co-Chair, Maryland

www.pflagdc.org

Keeping Families Together!

Metro DC PFLAG is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, volunteer organization founded in 1983 and oversees sixteen (16) PFLAG Community Groups across Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia. As a chapter of PFLAG, we strive to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and their families and friends through support, education, and advocacy to end discrimination and secure equal rights.