



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Economic Matters Committee

February 15, 2022

Senate 486: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Gender-Inclusive Signage Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such, the DD Coalition supports SB 486.

People with disabilities require a variety of support needs, including for personal care. It is not unusual for a person with a disability to be supported by someone of a different gender—whether a family member or a direct support professional—and this can create a barrier to access when only gender-specific bathrooms are available. Gender-neutral bathrooms remove this arbitrary barrier to everyday comfort for people with disabilities.

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.

This legislation moves our State one step closer towards full equity for all Marylanders.

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