



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
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Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

Christiana Rigby
Councilmember

District 3

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0486

Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Gender-Inclusive Signage Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 15, 2022

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee. I am writing to express my **strong support for SB0486**, legislation introduced by Senators Kagan, Waldstreicher, and Washington to promote access to gender-inclusive bathrooms to all Marylanders.

The purpose of this legislation is to make single-user public restrooms in Maryland available to all individuals regardless of gender, and to require that the signage for these single-user bathrooms is gender-inclusive. This legislation makes a simple, but important change to public restrooms in our state, ensuring that using the restroom is a safe and comfortable experience for all members of our community. It is a low-cost, common-sense measure that makes a world of difference to so many people.

This legislation is for all of us. It's for families with young children, like my own, who are often in need of a single-user restroom and are limited by availability. This legislation is also for transgender and nonbinary community members who often feel unwelcome in public restrooms and places that are exclusionary. This legislation also benefits caretakers and people with disabilities who would benefit from greater access to single-user bathrooms.

In April 2021, the Howard County Council unanimously passed local legislation ([CB20-2021](#)) to implement this important change in Howard County. This issue received broad and bipartisan support because Howard County recognized that this legislation is simply about ensuring that public places and accommodations serve all members of the public.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. I respectfully encourage a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Christiana Rigby
Howard County Councilmember, District 3