



**TESTIMONY OF ED ZAKRESKI, MANAGING DIRECTOR
IN SUPPORT OF SB 486/HB 572 "OPEN TO ALL ACT"**

In 2019, Round House reopened our renovated theatre. When we designed the signage for the renovation, we made the values-based decision to label our single-occupancy restroom as a Family Restroom, with a further explanation that our restrooms are available to everyone, regardless of their gender expression or identity.

Since that time, we have had multiple patrons express their gratitude for this signage and availability and have not had a single complaint.

Just about every business covered by this bill is in a business dependent on customers. That means that our revenues – our success – is dependent on creating an environment that is welcoming, safe, and accepting for our patrons. The more people we make happy, the better it is for our bottom line.

And there are so many people who hesitate when facing gendered signage on single stall restrooms: parents with young children, people who identify as trans or non-binary, caregivers of a different gender than the person they're caring for. This is about the easiest, least expensive action that can be taken to provide a more welcoming environment to a large number of people. It's not just the right thing to do ethically, it's simply good business. All for the cost of a couple signs.

Moreover, as the father of a transgender son – whose statement is included below – I can personally attest to the anxiety, and sometimes fear, that many trans people encounter when forced to use gendered restrooms. There are websites to help trans people navigate their personal safety when travelling to different states and identifying business that are safe locations. Passing this bill will provide much reassurance to a community that faces significant discrimination and marginalization.

I strongly encourage you to vote in support of the Open To All Act.

Statement from my son, Cameron Zakreski:

"Since coming out as trans in 2019, the first time I have truly felt safe walking into a men's room without the protection of my father or brother was when I saw a sign which actively welcomed me to use the correct bathroom for me. Because not only did I know I was allowed in that restroom, but everyone else had also seen the sign saying I was allowed in this bathroom. There's a sense of security that comes with being reassured that you'll be safe and protected if anything happens. I still avoid public restrooms, when possible, but in venues where there's a sign welcoming trans individuals to please use the bathroom they want, that fear of public restrooms goes away because I know that someone there has my back if something happens. That's why inclusive signage is important. I shouldn't have to fear using the restroom and neither should anyone else."