

Testimony in Support of SB 0486

Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings – Gender Inclusive Signage

Judicial Proceedings Committee

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Chloe Kastner

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Chair William C. Smith Jr. and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 0486.

I believe that SB0486 is important because of the impact it will have to transgender and non-binary Marylanders. I know many members of the transgender and non-binary community who experience anxiety around using the bathroom in public, some of whom have stated that they have experienced significant discomfort because they have specifically avoided using public restrooms depending on how they feel they are presenting on a given day. When discussing this bill with several close friends one individual shared with me that they would plan their day around what places offered gender neutral bathrooms because they were afraid. Specifically, in the town of Bel Air the only establishment where they could comfortably use the restroom was at Starbucks because they had non-gendered bathrooms. This bill would allow individuals to comfortably use the single stall bathrooms without concern for their safety and well-being. Additionally, I can personally speak to having waited in line for a single stall women's room at a restaurant when the men's room is empty and there was no need for restrictions on the bathrooms. This bill would also alleviate that problem for the general public.

Please do what you can to support all Marylanders. I strongly urge you to support SB0486.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chloe Kastner

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