

People on the Go of Maryland



HB 40

A BILL ENTITLED

Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Gender-Inclusive
Signage

Position: Support

February 8, 2023

Sponsored by Delegate Solomon

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Education, Energy, and the Environment

Written by Mat Rice

Executive Director - People On the Go of Maryland

Requiring that single-occupancy public restrooms be marked with gender-inclusive signage that does not indicate a specific gender, contains certain descriptive language, and contains a picture or icon that does not indicate a specific gender in certain places of public accommodation and certain public buildings; providing that a county is responsible for enforcing the signage requirement in places of public accommodation; and authorizing a county to set certain fines for second and subsequent violations after a certain period of time.

Honorable Chairperson and members of the committee:

People on the Go of Maryland, Maryland's statewide self-advocacy organization ran for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities submits this written testimony in support of House Bill 40. People on the Go supports the legislative intent of this Bill because many of our members are people who require supports for personal care and using the restroom. Many people with disabilities have support staff who are of the opposite gender this legislation would allow them to provide this needed assistance without reprisal, or legal consequences. We see this as promoting equality for individuals with disabilities because being able to use the restroom in a public space allows for community access, it prevents the need for an individual to have to go home, or to a more restrictive setting. This ultimately allows for people with disabilities to pursue employment, social activities and so much more. Simply put it is the right thing to do. Thank you

for your time and attention to this matter and we encourage a favorable report. Should you have any questions please contact Mat Rice.

Thank you,

Mat Rice, Executive Director

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