
Planned Parenthood of Maryland

Committee: House Economic Matters Committee

Bill Number: HB 40 - Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Gender-Inclusive Signage

Hearing Date: February 8, 2023

Position: Support

Planned Parenthood of Maryland (PPM) supports *House Bill 40 – Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Gender-Inclusive Signage*. This bill requires that single-occupancy public restrooms be marked with gender-inclusive signage that does not indicate a specific gender.

Restrooms that are accessible to all provide a welcoming space for everyone, including nursing mothers, individuals with disabilities, and parents of young children. They also protect gender neutral and transgender citizens from harassment. Non-gendered restrooms already exist in many places, and are required in Baltimore City, Washington, DC, New York City, and Philadelphia, among others. While there is no federal law on the issue, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommends that all single-occupancy units be designated gender-neutral and multiple-occupant facilities become gender-neutral restrooms with lockable single occupant stalls.¹ Complying with the bill is easy and offers a practical way to make all feel welcome and safe.

We urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

¹ <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA3795.pdf>