



NAACP

Youth & College

Greetings Honorable Delegates, Friends, and Fellow Marylanders,

My name is Dorien Rogers (he/him/his), President of the Maryland State Conference Youth and College Division of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and I come before you as many have to affirm support for this crucial legislation (HB40). As an organization with well over 2 million members around this union, I often have the honor/privilege to brag about the State of Maryland as we continue to lead our republic in the true nature of a multicultural representative democracy. That said, it is not simply statistics I get to brag about. It is not simply the investments in intersectional education that I get to brag about. It is the willingness of our intersectional communities and institutions to work collectively in matching actions to our words in creating a more equitable, accessible, and inclusive Maryland for all. With this in mind, The Open to All Act takes the first step in integrating gender neutral signage within Single Occupancy Bathrooms which is beneficial to our intersectional communities.

As we come up on 114 years as an organization, we must consistently yet consciously reflect on the intersections of the black diaspora to further understand our never-ending mission to eliminate discrimination of all forms throughout these land. That said, it is our never-ending duty to uplift the intersections of our communities based on the fundamental principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This heavily reflects our support for The Open to All Act in ensuring all peoples can comfortably utilize restroom facilities while feeling included. Not only does this reaffirm the inclusion of diverse peoples, but it places great emphasis on accessibility for the intersections of our diverse communities. This includes- but is not limited to the diverse LGBTQIA community, people with disabilities, diverse parents of young children, etc.

Regardless of one's political party or ideology, the greatness of the state of Maryland reflects ordinary Marylanders coming together to serve as the beacon of light for our communities, our state, and most importantly our republic. We as an NAACP will be a continued partner in uplifting our intersectional communities as we, as Marylanders, lead the way for our ever growing nation.

In Union Strength,

Maryland State Conference Youth and College Division (7031YSC)

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People