



JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

Submitted by
Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride
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House Bill 0040 – Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings – Gender-Inclusive Signage

POSITION: Favorable

Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride offers the following written testimony in strong support of Delegate Solomon’s House Bill 0040, the Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings – Gender-Inclusive Signage.

Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride provides unwavering support for LGBTQIA+ people and communities in Harford and Cecil counties. Legislation requiring single-occupancy public restrooms in places of public accommodation and public buildings to be marked with gender-inclusive signage. This legislation is a critical step towards creating a more inclusive and equitable Maryland, and aligns with Governor Moore’s “leave no one behind” campaign platform.

The use of gender-inclusive signage on single-occupancy restrooms not only benefits transgender and gender non-binary individuals, but also individuals who may not present in ways stereotypically associated with men or women, parents accompanied by children of different genders, people with disabilities who are receiving assistance from a caretaker of a different gender, and many others. In short, gender-inclusive restroom facilities provide benefits to a wide range of populations, while causing no harm or hardship to others.

We also appreciate that this legislation provides for county enforcement of the signage requirement that includes fines for subsequent violations. This will ensure that the requirement is not only established but also properly enforced in order to achieve its intended goal of creating a more inclusive Maryland. Our hope is that some of the proceeds from fines could be used to provide public education related to issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community.

In conclusion, as an organization dedicated to promoting equality and inclusiveness for Maryland's LGBTQIA+ community, we strongly support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.