



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland



8601 Robert Fulton Dr
Suite 140
Columbia, MD 21046



1500 Union Avenue
Suite 2000
Baltimore, MD 21211



8835 Columbia 100 Pky
Suite P
Columbia, MD 21044



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

217 E Redwood Street
Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202



7000 Tudsbury Road
Windsor Mill, MD
21244

Economic Matters Committee

February 8, 2023

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

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such, the DD Coalition supports SB 84.

People with disabilities require a variety of support needs, including for personal care. It is not unusual for a person with a disability to be supported by someone of a different gender—whether a family member or a direct support professional—and this can create a barrier to access when only gender-specific bathrooms are available. Gender-neutral bathrooms remove this arbitrary barrier to everyday comfort for people with disabilities.

We appreciate the sponsor's inclusion of language requiring both text and symbol on any sign. This enables all members of the public to quickly identify the location of an appropriate bathroom facility.

This legislation moves our State one step closer towards full equity for all Marylanders.

Contact:

Laura Howell, Executive Director, Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS):
lhowell@macsonline.org